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NEWS WORTH SHARING.

It's a tough time to become Canadian Page 8

VETS HEAD SOUTH TO SAVE SEA LIONS

With 1,800 sea lions washing up on Southern California shores since January, animal-care experts from the Vancouver Aquarium are heading south to help out with the growing crisis. Story, page 6. COURTESY NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Municipal auditor fired

Court. Basia Ruta plans legal challenge in response to decision

B.C.'s embattled auditor general for local government has been fired just days after she complained about a possible bias by the man appointed to investigate her work.

But Basia Ruta isn't going without a fight. Hours after she was removed from her office Monday, Ruta announced she would be asking a judge to review the decision.

"The manner of removing me from office occurred without adherence to basic principles of procedural fairness," she said in the statement distributed by her lawyer.

Earlier in the day, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development Coralee Oakes said Ruta's complaint last week prompted her to act, recommending to the lieutenant-governor that her appointment be rescinded.

"The auditor general for local government's obstruction of an intended review of her office has created an intolerable situation that compounds the unstable work environment and lack of performance from the office," Oakes said in a news release.

Oakes said two weeks ago she hoped the review would allow the independent office to move forward and succeed.

Instead, Oakes said removing Ruta was necessary to ensure the office functions properly.

Ruta's office has been under the microscope for weeks after the Opposition New Democrats released a workplace review that outlined an inefficient and unhappy workplace. Since the office was created in April 2012, just two audits have been completed.

Last Thursday, Ruta challenged the appointment of former deputy minister Chris Trumpy to conduct an independent review, saying the legislation governing her office maintains that any review must be done by a "qualified and truly independent person."

Ruta said that Trumpy's work with the former Liberal government gave rise to the perception of bias.

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"feeling totally different. I am pain free and I'm leading a good, healthy, normal life." Not long after the product was officially launched in Canada and the U.S.A, the University of Utah completed a randomized full double-blind placebo control pilot study of UMAC-CORE over a 90 day period with human subjects. Doctors who conducted the studies were impressed with the results and concluded that UMAC-CORE really does help enhance the immune system and support mood fluctuations, quality of sleep, and overall emotional well-being.

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NEWS

Dating. Are Canucks faithful not so faithful?

Cupid's arrow seems to have missed the Canucks, according to a new survey that suggests Vancouver fans are about as uncommitted to finding love as they are to their team. (Just kidding.)

The unscientific survey, commissioned by Match.com, questioned 1,010 single Canadians on their dating habits based on which hockey team they cheer for. The results were as surprising as a Canucks fan jumping back on the bandwagon during a playoff run.

Living up to their wishy-washy reputation on the ice and in relationships, 60 per cent of Canucks fans reported being open to having one-night stands, the survey found.

But don't expect a phone call the next day — your Canucks fan is probably already on to the next puck bunny.

While many hockey fans admitted to dating less during the playoffs, the survey found the majority of Canucks fans (80 per cent) aren't likely to put their busy dating lives on hold to cheer on their team.

So how do Canucks fans compare to the rest of the country?

Toronto Maple Leafs fans are the most devoted when it comes to dating — "almost to a fault," the survey found. Forty-two per cent have gotten back together with an ex.

Calgary Flames fans date with a fiery passion, with 43 per cent reporting that they're likely to sext.

Ottawa Senators fans are the most conservative, with more than half saying they have not had a one-night stand. When they do get busy, 63 per cent said they prefer the lights off. THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

A charging station for electric vehicles near Waterfront Station is one of dozens in Vancouver. MATT DESOUZA/METRO FILE

B.C. brings back clean-car subsidies

Energy. Revised program offers buyers of electric, hybrid or hydrogen vehicles $5,000 to $6,000 off purchase price

MATT KIELTYKA
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British Columbia has reintroduced its clean-energy vehicle program as electric vehicles attempt to shift into second gear.

People buying battery electric, plug-in electric or hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles could stand to save as much as $8,250 in government subsidies on the purchase of a new car.

The original clean-energy vehicle program expired in April 2014.

Under the regime, 950 vehicles were purchased, totalling $4.9 million in rebates over three years. The program was also credited with reducing 57,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

At the time, government said it had no plans to renew the program, but performed a U-turn on Monday by announcing Phase 2 of the program, starting April 1.

Under the revised program, buyers will get $5,000 off the purchase of a new battery electric, fuel-cell electric or plug-in hybrid and a $6,000 rebate for buying a hydrogen fuel-cell vehicle.

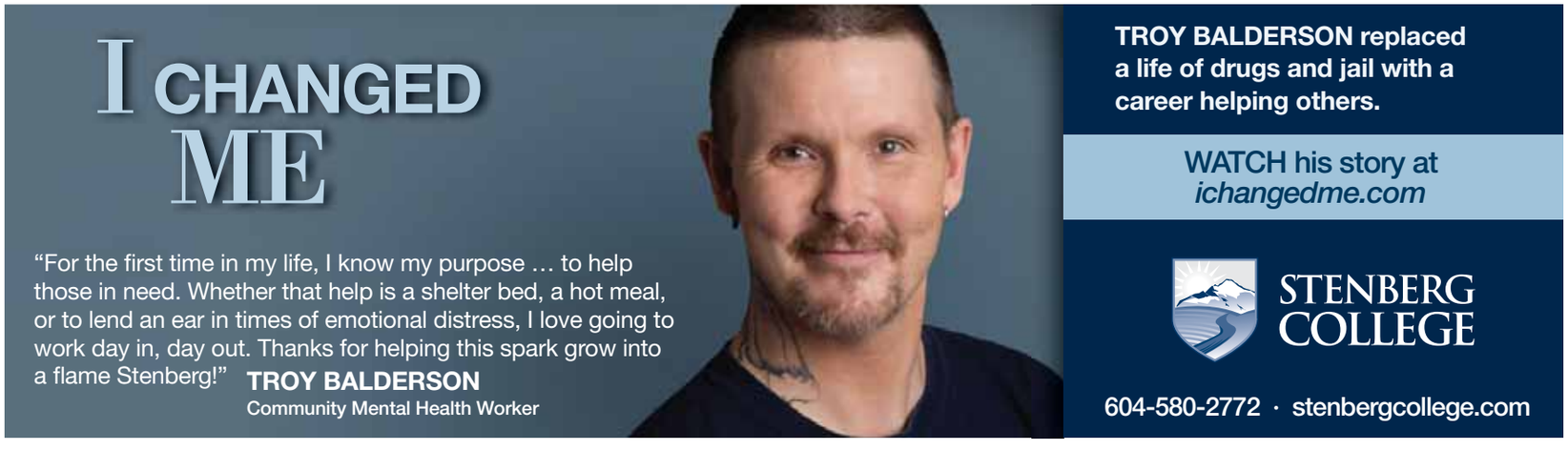
An additional $3,250 is offered to those who scrap their 2000 model year or older vehicle through SCRAP-IT BC.

Blair Qualey, president of the New Car Dealers Association of B.C., said the incentive program returns at a time when new technologies — and electric vehicles specifically — are primed for mainstream use.

"Not everyone is willing to be an early adopter," Qualey said. "We're through that batch and the next step is to get it to the mainstream."

While electric and fuel-cell vehicles are more expensive than their gas-powered counterparts, Qualey said improved technology, mass production and expanded infrastructure has brought down the price of clean-energy vehicles considerably since the incentive program was first introduced.

Coupled with Monday's announcement, Qualey believes the incentives can make a "huge difference" for those on the fence about clean-energy vehicles.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Vancouver Taxi Association drops its lawsuit against Uber

Transportation. But suit will be re-launched should Uber decide to operate in the city

EMILY JACKSON
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The Vancouver Taxi Association has dropped its lawsuit to stop Uber from operating in Vancouver because, well, Uber isn't operating in Vancouver.

The association filed the lawsuit in November as a pre-emptive strike against the company, which had announced its intentions to re-launch in the city after a failed attempt two years prior. The taxis asked the court to issue an injunction to stop Uber from operating without licences from the Passenger Transportation Branch.

But the association discontinued the legal battle because Uber still isn't operating in the city, according to a statement released Monday.

The statement thanked Uber for abiding by the rules, but warned it will re-launch the lawsuit if Uber begins operating without following all the laws taxis must obey.

"These legal requirements are necessary to protect the public interest in safe and reliable taxi services and cannot be ignored as Uber previously indicated it intended to do," according to the statement.

Uber, which connects drivers with passengers using a smartphone app, will likely have to wait until at least Oct. 31 to operate legally. The city is set to extend a freeze on issuing new taxi licences by seven months in order to figure out how to incorporate services such as Uber.

A taxi on Granville Street. The city's taxi association has dropped its lawsuit against Uber, but is warning it could be re-launched. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

Count marks city's failure to end street homelessness by 2015

A person sleeps on the streets in downtown Vancouver. METRO FILE

People were still sleeping on Vancouver's streets as the city's annual homeless count began on Monday despite Mayor Gregor Robertson's promise to end street homelessness by 2015.

The mayor campaigned on the pledge in 2008 and 2011. In 2014, he focused more on transit but still said ending street homelessness was one of his top priorities.

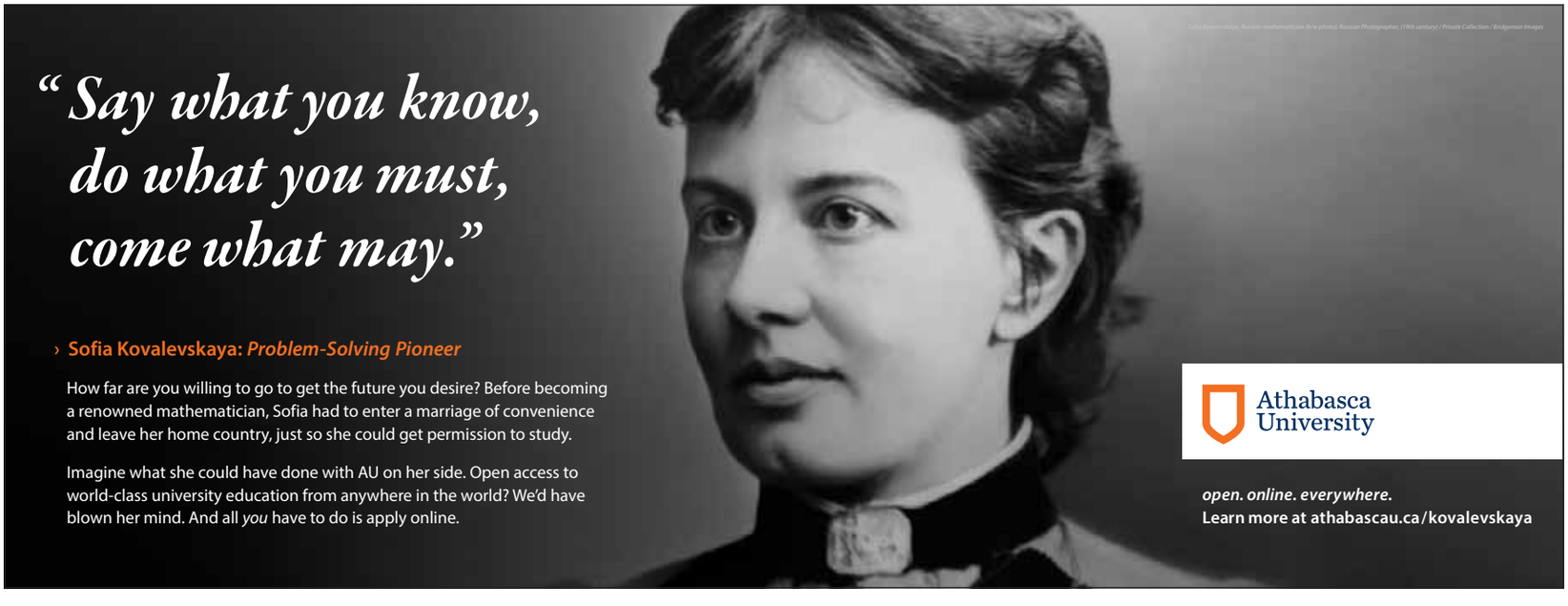
City officials scrambled last fall to find temporary shelter for people without homes to get them inside before count, which takes place over 24 hours on Monday and Tuesday.

While they successfully opened temporary shelters such as the Quality Inn and permanent homes including the 56 units at Taylor Manor, it's clear that the number of homeless people has not dropped to zero.

This comes after a rough 2014 where the number of street homeless nearly doubled to 538 after a few years of progress on the file.

The mayor plans to address the media following his participation in the count on Tuesday morning.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO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'No' side. Anti-transit tax signs removed

The disappearance of several campaign signs has "No" campaigners in the transit plebiscite crying foul.

While the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation and the large coalitions in support of a "Yes" vote have spent millions selling their plan, the Canadian Taxpayer Federation-led "No TransLink Tax" campaign says it has been able to muster 700 signs with its budget of $40,000.

Some of those signs, set up along Highway 1 in Surrey toward the Pattullo Bridge, were recently taken down.

The City of Surrey told Metro the municipality had no involvement taking down the signs, but CTF B.C. director Jordan Bateman said it's an incident that shows how difficult it has been to compete with big-spending "Yes" boosters. "It wasn't 'No' voters (that took down the signs)," Bateman said.

Voters are being asked to decide on a proposed 0.5 per cent regional sales tax to fund the mayors' 10-year, $7.5-billion transit plan. The mail-in plebiscite runs to May 29.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

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Let's get to work

A sea lion pup is stranded on shore in California. COURTESY NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Stranded sea lion pups creating crisis

California. Animal care experts from Vancouver Aquarium heading south to help

THANDI FLETCHER
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With a record number of sea lions washing up on the California coast, animal-care experts from the Vancouver Aquarium are heading south to help out with the growing crisis.

Dr. Martin Haulena, the aquarium's head veterinarian, said 10 staff members are travelling to three different facilities in southern California to help care for the animals.

Since January, more than 1,800 sick and starving sea lion pups have washed up on the southern California coast.

While it's common for some pups to get stranded when they leave their mothers each spring, Haulena said the number of animals washing up this season is the worst in recent memory.

"This is quite an unprecedented amount of California sea lions that are washing up and stranding," he said. "They're just not able to find the food that they need."

Scientists aren't sure what's causing the crisis, but Haulena said the El Niño weather phenomenon is likely to blame.

"It's a fairly normal cyclical event where waters are warmer than they should be," he said.

"That means that the prey species that these guys rely on are further away or just not as abundant as they normally are in other years."

With scarce food sources, Haulena said malnourished young pups are being separated from their mothers without the skills to forage on their own.

He said the flood of new pups arriving daily has left staff at rescue centres like the Marine Mammal Care Center in San Pedro and the Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito overwhelmed and in urgent need of skilled volunteers.

"They're needing help," said Haulena, who previously worked as a veterinarian at the Sausalito rescue centre from 1997 to 2006, before joining the Vancouver Aquarium.

"We're all in this together, so we're just trying to do whatever we can for our friends."

By the numbers

1,800

Number of sick and starving sea lion pups that have washed up on the southern California coast since January

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Disturbed garter snakes slither home

Delta. Wildlife Rescue Association of B.C. releases garter snakes in an area near the Boundary Bay dike

In a scene that likely rattled the nerves of anyone with a fear of snakes, more than 500 slithering serpents rescued earlier this month in Delta were released back into the wild Sunday.

Staff members at the Wildlife Rescue Association of B.C. spent the afternoon releasing the semi-slumbering garter snakes in an area near the Boundary Bay dike in Delta.

The snakes' winter den was disturbed in early March when engineering giant SNC-Lavalin was preparing to do repair work on a rock dike for the corporation of Delta.

Within two days, the Wildlife Rescue Association was swamped with 518 garter snakes. "This operation has been a tremendous joint effort," said Gordon White, the rescue group's acting executive director, in a statement. "We are pleased that over 95 per cent of the snakes have survived the ordeal and will be returned safely to their home."

The displaced animals consisted of three separate garter snake species that varied in size from eight-inch, four-gram juveniles, to two-and-a-half-feet long adults. Garter snakes traditionally hibernate — or more accurately, brumate — through the winter in large groups, both to increase their odds for survival and to facilitate mating in the spring.

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

More than 500 garter snakes rescued earlier this month in an area of Boundary Bay in Delta were returned to their home on Sunday. CONTRIBUTED

Trial. Accused worried about Muslim backlash, court hears

As time ticks by with no news of an explosion, accused B.C. terrorist John Nuttall becomes increasingly panicked about a potential Muslim backlash if too many children die in the legislature bomb plot.

Footage captured by hidden cameras and watched by a B.C. Supreme Court jury shows Nuttall becoming more and more agitated as the scheduled explosion time between 9 and 10 a.m. on July 1, 2013, passes.

"What if it goes off and kills a bunch of kids?" he asks his wife, co-accused Amanda Korody about the possibility of a delayed detonation.

"There are going to be Muslims hunting for us … if we kill too many kids," he says.

"Just pray to Allah nothing happens to those kids."

Video played Monday shows Nuttall pacing inside a Fraser Valley motel room the couple had been taken to by an undercover RCMP officer to use as a safe house.

Earlier that morning, Nuttall and Korody allegedly planted three homemade pressure-cooker explosives on the lawn of the B.C. legislature in Victoria.

The RCMP ensured the bombs were inert, the Crown has said.

Nuttall eventually starts to lay blame for the botched mission on faulty explosives, which he and Korody had acquired with the help of an undercover officer posing as an Arab businessman.

"It must be the C-whatchamacallit," says a clearly frustrated Nuttall over the phone to the officer, referring to the C-4 plastic explosive.

"Those timers were fine. I checked them 10 times. You checked them 10 times. They were ticking."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Near Prince George

Bodies of men killed in avalanche found

The bodies of two men from Alberta killed in an avalanche near Prince George on Saturday have been recovered.

RCMP Cpl. Dave Tyreman says the two victims were among three men hit by the slide when they were snowmobiling near the village of McBride in the Lower Dore Mountain Range.

Thomas Hamilton, 29, Ponoka and Curtis Fries, 36, from Sherwood Park near Edmonton, were buried, while a third man managed to dig himself out.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Burnaby Mountain

Kinder Morgan equipment stolen from site

The battle between protesters and Kinder Morgan flared up on Monday after masked men allegedly broke into a vehicle on Burnaby Mountain to steal surveying equipment.

"I understand that a window was smashed on one of the contractor's vehicles and some surveying equipment was taken by a masked man who we believe has previously interfered with the survey work we've been undertaking," Trans Mountain Pipeline spokeswoman Lizette Parsons Bell said.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

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Study sees dramatic fall in number of immigrants who become citizens

The percentage of immigrants who become citizens has been dropping dramatically in recent years — from 79 per cent to 26 per cent among people who arrived between 2000 and 2008.

Sounding the alarm is former citizenship director general Andrew Griffith, who suggests that recent reforms which raised barriers to becoming a citizen could lead to immigrants' widespread disengagement from Canadian public life and identity.

His analysis of the impact of the Conservatives' reforms shows that the new version of the citizenship test has adversely affected applicants from visible minorities more than those with European roots.

"In the past, citizenship was viewed as a stepping stone to immigrant integration, and it should be done earlier on," said Griffith, who will present his study, Multiculturalism in Canada, at a three-day national immigration and settlement conference in Vancouver that starts Thursday. "These changes have made it harder and prohibitive for some to acquire citizenship, turning Canada into a country where an increasing percentage of immigrants are likely to remain non-citizens, without the ability to engage in the Canadian political process."

Citizens are protected by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, can vote in elections and are entitled to Canadian passports. Not only do permanent residents not have those privileges, they are also vulnerable to revocation of their status and removals from Canada.

Quoted

"We need to make sure those who apply for citizenship take it seriously, but we don't want to inadvertently create excessive barriers and shift the relationship of some of the communities with the country." Andrew Griffith

Based on latest government data, Griffith found that the ratio of permanent residents who eventually become citizens has been in decline since 2000 and has dropped most rapidly in recent years.

Only 26 per cent of permanent residents who settled in Canada in 2008 have acquired Canadian citizenship, compared with 44 per cent for the wave of immigrants settling in 2007, and 79 per cent of those who arrived in 2000.

The permanent-resident-to-citizen conversion rate generally rises the longer immigrants have been in Canada. But an 18-per-cent decrease between the 2008 and 2007 cohorts is alarming, Griffith said.

"I understand the rationale behind these government changes," said Griffith, who worked for the government as the reforms were developed and rolled out, and retired in 2013. "But I'm on the side of inclusion rather than exclusion."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

This sweater brings an important message

Jeremy Dias, founder of the Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity, wears the Gay Sweater, a garment made from the hair of hundreds of gay people. The sweater was designed to signify the idea that to insult an object by calling it "gay" is to insult real people. The donated hair was spun into yarn and knitted by two Toronto women. The sweater is making its debut at Toronto Fashion week. For more info, go to Thegaysweater.ccgsd-ccdgs.org.

LIZ BEDDALL/METRO IN TORONTO

Report warns of threats to Canada's fresh water

Blue Betrayal. Ottawa accused of turning its back on water resources

Canada is taking its vast freshwater resources for granted, wrecking them in the process, says a scathing new report.

Titled Blue Betrayal, the report warns climate change, industrial farming, melting glaciers, oil, gas and mineral extraction, and dumping of waste (sometimes toxic) into waterways all threaten our diminishing water supplies.

The report, authored by Maude Barlow, of the Council of Canadians, a non-governmental organization, accuses Ottawa of turning its back on water resources to advance energy industry interests.

"On both sides of the border, we continue to see the Great Lakes as a dumping ground for our toxic waste, and, more recently, as a carbon corridor to transport tar sands bitumen, fracked gas and fracking wastewater," Barlow said on Monday, calling those the "most dangerous energy sources on Earth."

A big chunk of the report talks about steps Ottawa has taken that have made freshwater resources more vulnerable, such as targeting scientific institutes and projects that did important work.

Included in that list is the plan to dismantle the Experimental Lakes Area (ELA), the world's leading freshwater research institute.

The facility has been saved temporarily by the Ontario and Manitoba governments.

The report accuses past Liberal and Conservative governments of allowing Canada's lakes, rivers and groundwater to deteriorate.

It doesn't paint a healthy picture of the Great Lakes, a source of livelihood for more than 40 million people in Canada and the U.S.

It says there are at least 204 pollutants in the Great Lakes, including plastic in various forms. Great Lakes fish are loaded with contaminants like mercury, dioxins and lead, it adds.

Mark Mattson, of Lake Ontario Waterkeeper, says Toledo's drinking water advisory last summer was a wake-up call that "we can't take the Great Lakes for granted."

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Phoenix

Judge dismisses murder charge against woman

An Arizona woman who spent more than two decades on death row for her four-year-old son's killing saw her murder charge dismissed Monday, ending a controversial case that relied almost entirely on the work of a detective with a long history of misconduct. Debra Milke hugged her supporters and sobbed as she left the courtroom, where a judge formally dismissed the case, saying it cannot be tried again. The decision came less than a week after prosecutors lost their final appeal. In a brief hearing, Judge Rosa Mroz also allowed Milke, who has been free on bond since 2013, to have her electronic-monitoring ankle bracelet removed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Philippines

Trial of U.S. Marine begins

A Philippine court on Wednesday began the trial of a U.S. Marine charged with murdering a transgender Filipino after allegedly discovering her gender when they checked into a hotel, in an emotional case that has tested the two countries' military ties.

U.S. security escorts brought Marine Pte. First Class Joseph Scott Pemberton into a heavily secured courtroom in Olongapo city, northwest of Manila, for the trial after an earlier plea-bargain negotiation with the family of the victim, Jennifer Laude, reportedly collapsed, lawyers for Laude's family said.

Pemberton is charged with murder, which carries a maximum penalty of life in prison. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Afghanistan

Protesters demand justice for woman killed by mob

Hundreds marched Monday in the Afghan capital, demanding justice for a woman beaten to death last week by a Kabul mob over false allegations she had burned a Qur'an — a vicious killing that shocked many Afghans and renewed calls for authorities to ensure women's rights to equality and protection from violence.

The killing has also drawn condemnation from Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani, now in Washington on his first state visit to the United States since taking office in September, "who denounced it as a "heinous attack" and ordered an investigation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cruz joins 2016 U.S. presidential race

Politics. Platform includes securing borders, abolishing IRS

Sen. Ted Cruz opened the first major campaign of the 2016 U.S. presidential season Monday with a kickoff speech courting cultural conservatives and declaring that he will devote himself to "reigniting the promise of America."

One of several Republican hopefuls to rise from the Tea Party movement, Cruz spoke at Liberty University, the college founded by the late Rev. Jerry Falwell, hours after a wee-hours tweet announcing his White House bid.

The choice of the college was meant as marker against potential rivals who are also counting on Christian conservatives to fuel their candidacies.

Cruz addressed his religious faith, his father's Cuban roots and his unquestioned conservative credentials, saying "for so many Americans the promise of America seems more and more distant."

And he asked the enthusiastic crowd to "imagine a president that finally, finally, finally secures the borders."

"Imagine a simple flat tax," he said. "Imagine abolishing the IRS."

He spoke on the fifth anniversary of President Barack Obama's health-care law — legislation that prompted Cruz to stand for more than 21 hours in the Senate to denounce it in a marathon speech that delighted his Tea Party constituency and other foes of the law. Cheers rose in the hall when Cruz reminded the crowd Monday that Liberty University filed a suit against the law right after its enactment.

"God's blessing has been on America from the very beginning of this nation and I believe that God isn't done with Americans," Cruz said. "I believe in you. I believe in the power of millions of courageous conservatives rising up to reignite the promise of America. And that is that is why, today, I am announcing that I am running for president of the United States of America."

Cruz, a divisive figure in his own party, is not expected to be the sole GOP contender for long. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and two Senate colleagues, Kentucky's Rand Paul and Florida's Marco Rubio, are eyeing campaign launches soon.

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, his wife Heidi, and their two daughters Catherine, 4, left, and Caroline, 6, right, wave on stage after he announced his campaign for president, Monday. ANDREW HARNIK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For his announcement, Cruz bypassed Texas, which he represents in the Senate, as well as early nominating states such as New Hampshire, where Mitt Romney kicked off his own campaign for the GOP nomination in 2012, and Iowa.

By getting in early — and at Liberty — Cruz was hoping to claim ownership of the influential and highly vocal corner of the Republican Party for whom cultural issues are supreme. It was a move at crowding out figures such as former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, a former Baptist pastor, and former Sen. Rick Santorum, who has made his Catholic faith a cornerstone of his political identity.

Cruz's father, a pastor, is also expected to help the 44-year-old first-term senator make inroads with these voters. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Status

Is he American enough?

Ted Cruz's announcement that he's running for president has renewed questions about his Calgary birthplace and whether the Texas senator's Canadian roots leave him ineligible to make a bid for the Oval Office.

They don't, American constitutional scholars say, because Cruz's mother was a U.S. citizen when he was born. His Cuban father became a citizen in 2005.

The fact that Cruz's mother is Delaware-born satisfies the U.S. constitution's requirement that a president must be a "natural-born U.S. citizen," experts agree.

Last spring, Cruz — dubbed "Canadian Ted" by some of his political foes in Texas — formally gave up his Canadian citizenship.

Police ice probe of alleged gang rape, detailed in magazine

A five-month police investigation into an alleged gang rape at the University of Virginia, described in graphic detail in a Rolling Stone article, produced no evidence of the attack and was stymied by the accuser's unwillingness to co-operate, authorities said Monday.

The article, titled "A rape on campus," traced the story from a student identified only as Jackie, who said she was raped at a Phi Kappa Psi fraternity house on Sept. 28, 2012. It also described a hidden culture of sexual violence fueled by binge drinking at the college. Police said they found no evidence of that, either.

There were numerous discrepancies between the article and what they found, said Charlottesville Police Chief Timothy Longo, who was careful not to characterize Jackie's account as a false allegation.

The case is suspended, not closed, and the fact that investigators could not find evidence years later "doesn't mean that something terrible didn't happen to Jackie," Longo said.

He appealed for anyone with information about the case or any sexual assault to come forward, and he even said Jackie may one day be in a place where she would be comfortable explaining what happened.

"There's a difference between a false allegation and something that happened that may have been different than what was described in that article," Longo said.

Asked if Jackie would be charged with making a false report, he said: "Absolutely not."

Accurate or not, the article heightened scrutiny of sexual assaults on college campuses. Even before it was published, the U.S. Education Department revealed a list of 55 colleges, including the University of Virginia, under investigation for the way they handled sexual assault allegations. President Barack Obama's administration launched a campaign to end campus sex assaults.

Longo said Jackie first described a sexual assault when she met with a dean in May 2013 about an academic issue, but "the sexual act was not consistent with what was described" in the Rolling Stone article. The dean brought in police, but Jackie didn't want them to investigate and the case was dropped.

After the article was printed in November, she met with police, this time with an attorney, and again refused to talk. Discrepancies in the article were soon found by news organizations. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Review

Rolling Stone printed an apology and asked the dean of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism to conduct a review of the article, by Sabrina Rubin Erdely, and its editorial process. The magazine is expected to publish those findings in a couple of weeks.

Female execs bring bigger profits: Study

Leadership. Many firms slow to make workplaces more women-friendly

Evidence is growing that it pays for a company to have equal numbers of male and female managers.

A study last year found units at multinational catering company Sodexo that had equal numbers of men and women in management roles delivered more profits more consistently than those dominated by men.

Companies are trying to increase the number of women in executive positions, yet many are struggling to do so because of a failure to adapt workplace conditions in a way that ensures qualified women do not drop off the corporate ladder, surveys show.

In a survey last year of 366 companies, consultancy McKinsey & Co. found that those whose leadership roles were most balanced between men and women were more likely to report financial returns above their industry median.

Companies with more balanced leadership do a better job recruiting and retaining talented workers, reducing the costs associated with replacing top executives, McKinsey found.

They also have stronger customer relations because management better reflects the diversity of society, and they tend to make better business decisions because a wider array of viewpoints is considered.

While most big companies now have programs to increase gender diversity, many executives express frustration these programs aren't working. McKinsey found that 63 per cent of the employers it surveyed had at least 20 initiatives to address gender equity, but women held less than a quarter of the top jobs in 92 per cent of the companies.

A woman's prospects for promotion fall off at every step of the career ladder, according to a separate survey of 130 large companies conducted by McKinsey in 2012. While women made up 37 per cent of the total workforce, they comprised 22 per cent of middle managers, 14 per cent of senior managers and vice-presidents, nine per cent of executive committee members and two per cent of CEOs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tourism. Cuba sees boom from U.S. move

Bookings to Cuba jumped 57 per cent for one New York tour operator in the weeks after Washington said it would renew ties with Havana. In February, they were up 187 per cent; and so far this month, nearly 250 per cent.

The boom is just one sign that the rush is on to see Cuba now — before, as many predict, McDonald's claims a spot in Old Havana and Starbucks moves in on Cubita, the island's premium coffee brand.

The sense that detente will unleash an invasion of Yankee tourists and change the unique character of one of the world's last remaining bastions of communism is shared by many travellers flocking here.

"Cuba has a very authentic atmosphere which you see nowhere else in the world," Gay Ben Aharon of Israel said while walking through Revolution Square. "I wanted to see it before the American world … but also the modern Western world comes here."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The reality

Outsiders may romanticize the "time-capsule" nation, but many on the island are ready for change.

- Where foreigners see charming, historic architecture and 1950s-era American cars, locals living in dilapidated, multigenerational tenements see decaying buildings in need of repair, new vehicles priced beyond their reach and a lack of economic opportunity.

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Cod stocks improving but recovery is still years away, researchers say

Scientists tracking northern cod stocks off Newfoundland say there are hopeful signs of recovery but that any lifting of an almost 23-year-old commercial fishing moratorium is likely a decade away.

There are more fish, and they're both larger and older, said George Rose, director of the Centre for Fisheries Ecosystems Research at Memorial University's Marine Institute in St. John's.

The northern cod moratorium, which threw thousands of people out of work after it was announced July 2, 1992, was initially to last two years. Rose was among those scientists who predicted it would take much longer for stocks to rebound from a complex blend of overfishing, mismanagement and environmental factors.

Warming water trends could ultimately help cod and caplin, a vital food source on which cod depend and which also collapsed in the 1980s, Rose said.

The role of growing seal populations is another hotly debated topic around fish stock recovery. What, if anything, should be done about seal populations is "a political decision," said Jeffrey Hutchings, a biologist at Dalhousie University in Halifax. But like Rose, he stressed that severely depleted fish stocks don't just bounce back even after overfishing stops.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pipelines

Groups challenge approval process

A coalition of environmental advocates in B.C. is taking the National Energy Board to Canada's highest court in a challenge of the pipeline approval process, arguing restrictive rules unfairly limit public participation in the pipeline debate. The group contends the process impedes charter rights of Canadians.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 80.01¢ (+ 0.51¢)

TSX 14,957.21 (+ 14.80)

OIL $47.45 US (+ 88¢)

GOLD $1,187.70 US (+$3.10)

Natural gas: $2.733 (- 5.3¢)
Dow Jones: 18,116.04 (- 11.61)

Louisville Slugger sold to rival

A 36-metre-tall replica bat fronts the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory in Louisville, Ky., Monday. The company that made the iconic bats for a who's-who of baseball greats, including Babe Ruth and Ted Williams, is selling its Louisville Slugger brand to rival Wilson Sporting Goods Co., a division of Finnish sports equipment maker Amer Sports Corp., for $70 million US. Hillerich & Bradsby Co. has made the bats for more than 130 years. TIMOTHY D. EASLEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VOICES

WALKABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS

Creating better 'last mile' transit is essential as demand grows for housing within walking distance of small businesses, parks and public spaces

YOUR RIDE
Karen Quinn Fung

In the months before the 2013 provincial election, two canvassers for a political party knocked on my door and asked me what I cared about. I was excited; it was my first experience with what I am told is a cornerstone of the party process in representative democracy.

I told the women at the door, "My priority is to have rapid transit built for Surrey and Vancouver at the same time."

One canvasser cocked an eyebrow. My doorway is a short walk from Central Broadway — she clearly did not expect me to be so passionate about what happens in Surrey.

And I am. The simple truth is that transportation is a regional issue. That means that there is a lot in it for me when people have transit service that can take them safely, comfortably and reliably to and from their destinations for their entire journey.

For a lot of people, the deal-breaker may be that "first or last mile," the part of the trip nearest to their homes. As pressing and urgent as the issues with transit on Broadway are, I know things will not get better if other parts of our transit system don't see improvement.

A rendering for phase one of the Brentwood Town Centre redevelopment in Burnaby. CONTRIBUTED

But it's more than just that. I've had the fortune to have lived in walkable neighbourhoods. That means living near well-connected streets close to frequent transit, within walking distance of thriving small businesses, enjoyable parks and public spaces. These places are only possible when robust transit options are in place.

Studies show that demand for living in walkable neighbourhoods is growing faster than housing is being built. Why? Walkable neighbourhoods are less sensitive to fuel prices, better suited for those of us who can't or don't want to drive, and support active habits that keep us healthy mentally and physically.

In one 2006 study, it was estimated that anywhere between 20 to 40 per cent of the market wanted to live in a walkable neighbourhood, though only five per cent of folks surveyed were already living in a place that fit that description.

That's a lot of people wanting to live more of their lives out of their cars, frustrated that they can't. That's also a lot of people working who'd like to put less of their earnings to their cars, who aren't able to.

Many of the transit investments agreed upon by 20 of our region's mayors being voted on in the transit referendum are things I don't benefit directly from. But I don't need to in order to cast a ballot in support of it.

There's a Spanish proverb that sums up my thinking on this: "Today you, tomorrow me." Do my neighbours throughout the region think as I do on this? I know what I'm hoping for.

DO YOU HAVE A TRANSIT IDEA? Shoot us an email: vancouver@metronews.ca

Karen Quinn Fung writes on sustainable transportation issues and policy. Find her @counti8 on Twitter.

Canada's continued mission in Iraq a tragedy of errors

STEPHEN KIMBER
readers@metronews.ca

This week, the Harper government will extend and expand our supposedly no-boots-on-the-ground, six-month military mission in Iraq.

The purpose, according to Foreign Affairs Minister Rob Nicholson, is to "degrade and destabilize this gang of thugs (ISIL), and in doing so, strip (it) of its power to threaten the security of the region or to launch terrorist operations in Canada."

The reality is this soon-to-be-open-ended, bottomless money pit of a misguided mission will achieve none of Nicholson's objectives and may actually make us more vulnerable to terrorist attack in the future.

ISIL is the logical result of cascading, colliding, ill-advised and illogical western military misadventures in a volatile region full of deep-seated historic, religious, ideological, sectarian conflicts we can barely identify let alone wrap our minds around.

ISIL not the only bad guys

If we take on ISIL in Syria, are we propping up a reprehensible regime responsible for the deaths of at least 60,000 civilians in the last three years?

This latest mess-of-our-own-making began with George W. Bush's invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Canada wisely dodged that bullet.

As Opposition leader then, Stephen Harper had argued for putting our troops in harm's way in Iraq.

As prime minister, he volunteered us last fall for Iraq II.

And now he's keen for us to push into the front lines of those chasing ISIL from Iraq into Syria.

Syria? Wait a minute: isn't Syria in the midst of a civil war?

Isn't Syrian President Bashar al-Assad also fighting the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant?

We claim we need to fight ISIL in Syria because the U.S.-led coalition has been so successful in driving them out of Iraq.

How's that working out?

Well, let's see. Iran, another non-ally (see nuclear threat) that supports al-Assad, is also fighting ISIL in Iraq ... when it isn't fomenting sectarian violence between Iraqi-backed Shia and ISIL-encouraged Sunni militias.

Not that either side requires encouragement. They've been warring since 632 over who should succeed the Prophet Muhammad.

Confused?

So is Rob Nicholson, whose dismissal of ISIL as simply "a gang of thugs" betrays his ignorance of its complex historical, religious and ideological roots.

Instead of adding our inevitably inconsequential military might to an unwinnable conflict, Canada could make a real contribution by focusing instead on helping these wars' refugees and understanding why so many young western-raised Muslims, including Canadians, offer themselves as drone fodder for ISIL. And finding constructive ways to discourage them.

Unfortunately, those actions aren't "warrior" enough for the Harper government.

So we are doomed to continue this tragedy of terrors.

Stephen Kimber is a professor of journalism at the University of King's College in Halifax, as well as an award-winning writer, editor and broadcaster.

metro

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Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The late Paul Walker, left, and Vin Diesel in 2013. ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Vin Diesel names his daughter after Paul Walker

Vin Diesel's fraternal affection for his late The Fast and the Furious co-star Paul Walker is apparently very deep and very authentic.

Case in point? Diesel's newborn daughter.

"I named her Pauline," he revealed on the Today show.

"There's no other person that I'm thinking about as I'm cutting this umbilical cord. I knew he was there and I felt, like, you know, a way to keep his memory a part of my memory, a part of my world."

The announcement also came with a surprisingly personal vote of confidence for Today show anchor Natalie Morales: "I'm telling you this because I love you," Diesel said.

"I know that you are a good soul, and I know that this is in good hands."

So, um, good job, Ms. Morales?

James Corden got Mila Kunis to admit she's married ... maybe

James Corden is off to a good start as the newest late-night talk show host on the block, as during his very first guest segment he managed to kinda sorta confirm that Mila Kunis and Ashton Kutcher are indeed already married. During Corden's premiere interview with Kunis — pre-taped ahead of its Monday airing, according to the Daily Mail — the British host continually prods the actress about whether she and Kutcher have already tied the knot, only to be met with a repeated response of, "Maybe."

But he's not having it. "Either you're married, or you're not," he says before demanding she show off her left ring finger, which sports a golden wedding band. "They are married, look," the host declares. So now you know.

Taylor Swift

Taylor Swift crushes the dreams of would-be porn peddlers

Taylor Swift is all about insurance these days, and not just when it comes to her $40-million legs. The savvy pop star reportedly purchased a number of adult-themed domain names before they became available to the public as a means to thwart porn peddlers from cashing in on her fame.

So if you had your heart set on registering domains like TaylorSwift.porn or TaylorSwift.adult, then it sucks to be you. I mean, for multiple reasons, but right now let's just focus on the fact that your hopes for a Swift-themed adult entertainment empire have been dashed.

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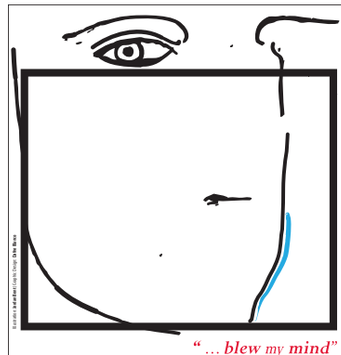

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Analysis

Streaming is here to stay — Get used to it

SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

Music piracy is obsolete given the breadth and affordability of options for streaming. ISTOCK

If you're still stealing music, you're stupid.

That was my position at a panel on the future of music at Brock University last week and I'm sticking to it.

Aside from the moral and ethical issues involved in ripping off the labour and talent of musicians, stealing music is a complete waste of time. Consider what you need to do. You need to find the P2P sites or torrents; hope that the files are complete, uncorrupted and virus-free; make sure that everything is tagged properly with artwork and all the other metadata; and then sort everything into playlists and libraries before transferring them to all your devices. That's a lot of work.

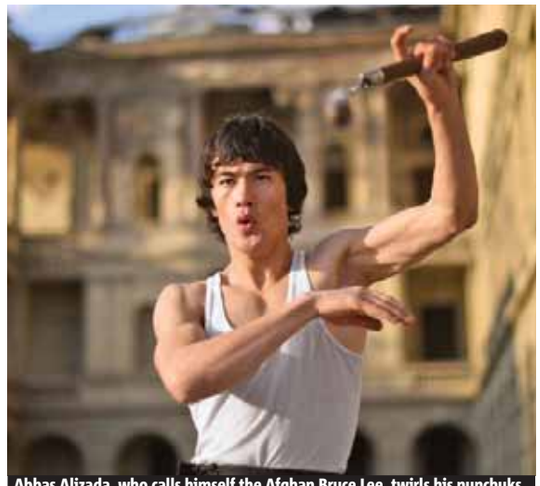
Don't give me the excuse "Well, I can't afford music any other way." We all can't afford many things we want, but that doesn't give us licence to walk into a store and take what we want.

The answer to all your prayers is streaming music services. Rdio, Spotify, Deezer, Tidal, Songza, Google Play Music, Mediazoic and a host of others give you legal access to somewhere north of 25 million songs — a number that's approaching every song ever recorded in the history of humanity — for $10 a month. If that's too much, then there's the "freemium tier," a slightly less functional incarnation of the paid version — that allows you to stream music for ZERO dollars.

I repeat: Instant access to virtually every song ever recorded. Full files, properly tagged, no viruses, no guilt. For free. Tell me again why you're stealing music?

Afghan 'Bruce Lee' dreams big

Kabul. Amid the ruins of war, a young martial artist walks the path of his famous idol



Abbas Alizada, who calls himself the Afghan Bruce Lee, twirls his nunchuks at the ruined Darulaman palace in Kabul. SHAH MARAI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Framed by the dramatic backdrop of Kabul's ruined Darulaman palace, Abbas Alizada throws kung fu punches, kicks and spins, watched by an eager young crowd.

Dressed in a white vest, black trousers and light shoes despite the bitter Afghan winter, Alizada bears a striking resemblance to his idol — legendary martial arts movie star Bruce Lee.

Alizada twirls his nunchuks in front of the shell-blasted walls of the former royal palace, an evocative monument to the 35 years of war that have ravaged Afghanistan.

Then he leaves the enclosure, smiling, sunglasses on his nose, his fans can finally meet him, shake his hand — and take selfies with him.

He is a member of Afghanistan's Hazara community, an ethnic group with distinctively Central Asian features that add to his resemblance to Hong Kong star Lee.

With more than 50,000 followers on Twitter and 40,000 likes on Facebook, Alizada has become quite a celebrity in Afghanistan, known locally as "Bruce Hazara."

He has become a familiar face on local media and now he is dreaming of Hollywood stardom.

"When I was eight years old, I saw the Bruce Lee movies, and I was hooked," he told AFP in his brother's office in Kabul, sitting round a traditional *sandali* stove for warmth.

"I said I will be the Bruce Lee of Afghanistan one day. I know I cannot be Bruce Lee, but I follow in his path," he said. AFP

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Pop stars warm up to Chilly's classic style

Music. Drake collaborator Chilly Gonzales explains why people fear classical music, and why it's time they got over it

It was a childhood visit to an art gallery, chaperoned by his father, that first ignited Chilly Gonzales's passion for rendering esoteric pieces more accessible.

It wasn't really the art that inspired the Canadian-reared pianist (born Jason Beck), but how his dad struggled to appreciate it.

"He couldn't decide if he liked the painting until he read the title and the paragraph that tells you something about it," said Beck during a phone interview from Germany.

"I was touched by the fact that my dad needed that story to guide him through. I think those people also deserve to enjoy creative things.

"That's why I've always done a lot of context-building."

In fact, it's become a mission for the acclaimed 43-year-old musician, who has collaborated with Drake, Leslie Feist and Daft Punk (which merited Gonzales a Grammy Award for album of the year).

Last year he released Re-Introduction Etudes, a book of 24 easy-to-master piano pieces designed to inspire lapsed players. And in a YouTube series called Pop Music Masterclass he's been cheerfully dissecting hits including ILoveMakonnen's Tuesday.

On Tuesday, Gonzales releases the solo album Chambers, which uses piano and strings to sketch links between Romantic-era chamber music and modern pop.

CP: Why is it that people are daunted by classical music?

There's something about instrumental music ... it must be some childhood reaction to the fact that we were told this was high art. It's the reason we're all nervous when we go to a concert hall. It's a feeling of too much respect. We can't take it on its own terms.

CP: Writing about your song The Difference, you mused that most musicians are "frauds, others merely mediocre, and a scant few worthy of listening." How do you define that worthiness?

It's anyone who creates their own lane.

I might think an artist is a fraud, but it doesn't mean someone shouldn't like them. It just means that when someone hides behind something that came before them that worked, at the expense of bringing something more original to the game, then I feel like they're a fraud (as) if they didn't quite have the strength to resist temptation.

The bigger risk and the bigger gamble is always to take the harder road, be yourself as much as possible. I just know this from my own experience.

CP: What was that process like, of shaping your career?

I went through moments where I tried to shave off the rough edges, all though my 20s.

It wasn't working.

Eventually I moved to Berlin and decided I would approach my career the way a rapper would.

I took the name Chilly Gonzales for that reason. It was audibly a fake name and I was going to ... have somewhat of a cartoonish persona, and at the same time try to put a lot of musical depth into what I do.

That was the gamble I took because I wanted to create my own lane.

The artists I respect the most created their own lane. Whether it's Daft Punk or Drake or Leslie Feist, they really did carve something out. And the proof is many people try to imitate them, and very few are able to succeed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto-raised Chilly Gonzales has been on a mission to make classical music more accessible. He has collaborated with Drake, Leslie Feist and Daft Punk.

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Breastfeeding is good for the brain

Well-being. Effects of being breastfed continue into adulthood, boosting intelligence, education and earnings, regardless of socio-economic status, research paper shows

People breastfed as infants have higher intelligence scores in adulthood, and higher earnings, according to a study published last week that tracked the development of 3,500 newborns over 30 years.

And, critically, the socio-economic status of mothers appeared to have little impact on breastfeeding results, according to a paper published by The Lancet medical journal.

"The effect of breastfeeding on brain development and child intelligence is well established," lead author Bernardo Lessa Horta of the Federal University of Pelotas in Brazil said in a statement.

What has been less clear, is whether the effects persist into adulthood, and whether a mother's socio-economic status or education level played a bigger role in the outcome of previous studies than her choice to breastfeed or not.

"Our study provides the first evidence that prolonged breastfeeding not only increases intelligence until at least the age of 30 years but also has an impact both at an individual and societal level by improving educational attainment and earning ability," said Horta.

"What is unique about this study is the fact that, in the population we studied, breastfeeding was not more common among highly educated, high-income women, but was evenly distributed by social class."

The longer a baby is breastfed, the greater the long-term benefits. ISTOCK

How much smarter?

4 IQ points

An individual breastfed for at least a year as a baby gained a full four IQ points, had 0.9 years more schooling, and an income of $104 higher per month at the age of 30, compared to those breastfed for less than one month, the study found.

Horta and a team analysed data from another study of children born in Pelotas in 1982.

Information on breastfeeding was compared to IQ test results at the average age of 30 years, as well as the educational achievement and income of 3,493 participants.

"The researchers divided these subjects into five groups based on the length of time they were breastfed as infants, controlling for 10 social and biological variables that might contribute to the IQ increase including family income at birth, parental schooling, genomic ancestry, maternal smoking during pregnancy, maternal age, birth weight, and delivery type," said the statement.

"While the study showed increased adult intelligence, longer schooling, and higher adult earnings at all duration levels of breastfeeding, the longer a child was breastfed for (up to 12 months), the greater the magnitude of the benefits."

AFP

Smart move

Fatty acids in breast milk are good for the growing mind

An individual breastfed for at least a year as a baby gained a full four IQ points, had 0.9 years more schooling, and an income of $104 higher per month at the age of 30, compared to those breastfed for less than one month, the study published in The Lancet medical journal found.

"The likely mechanism underlying the beneficial effects of breast milk on intelligence is the presence of long-chain saturated fatty acids (DHAs) found in breast milk, which are essential for brain development," said Horta.

"Our finding that predominant breastfeeding is positively related to IQ in adulthood also suggests that the amount of milk consumed plays a role."

In a comment also carried by The Lancet, Erik Mortensen of the University of Copenhagen said the findings had important public health implications.

"However, these findings need to be corroborated by future studies designed to focus on long-term effects and important life outcomes associated with breastfeeding."

AFP

Seeking volunteers with knee osteoarthritis. We need your help for a research study!

The Motion Analysis and Biofeedback Lab at the University of British Columbia is seeking volunteers with knee osteoarthritis to participate in a study assessing the effects of different types of custom-fitted shoe orthotics on knee pain and physical function. If eligible, you will be asked to attend 5 sessions at the University assessing different orthotics over a period of 6 months.

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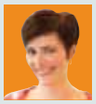
Create a stir with a quickie 'risotto'

Fast healthy food

Bowl 'em over with ready-to-go rice just waiting for toppings



NUTRI-BITES
Theresa Albert
DHN, RNCP
myfriendinfood.com

In my 20s, I lived in Japan with 14 roommates. The rice cooker was a daily staple that made meals a breeze in this constant coming and going home of near strangers. Boy, did I inspire ire when I used the rice cooker like a slow cooker to make cabbage soup. I didn't do that again. The rice cooker is for rice, period.

But once you make that rice, the toppings are endless. And, the type of rice can vary weekly to keep boredom at bay (sometimes the rice becomes quinoa, shhhh). Rice cookers come as cheaply as $10 with basic settings and $100 plus with more sophisticated start and stop timers.

With rice as the foundation, the meal mix takes mere minutes. Each one starts with an onion and garlic sautéed and some quickie protein warmed though. Serve on a bed of greens to up the veg count for the day.

Rice makes a great foundation for a fast meal. ISTOCK

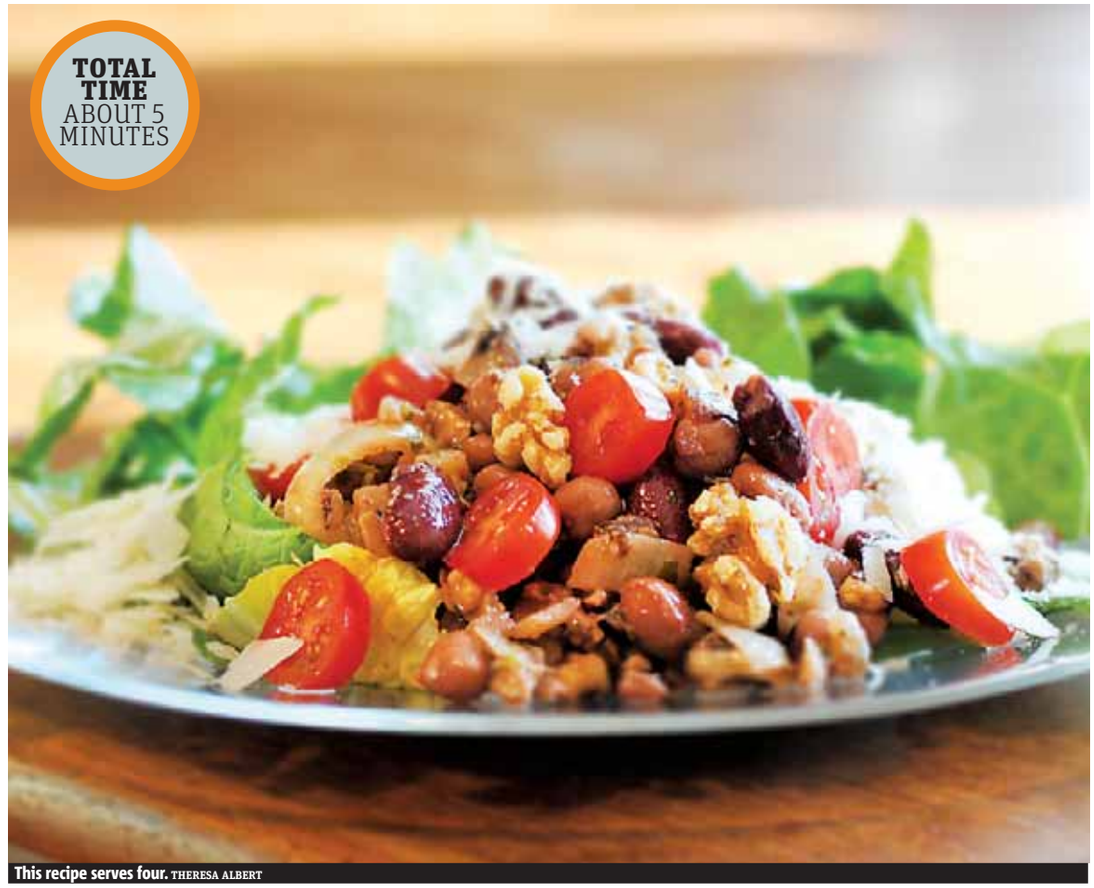
Rice bowl meals

- Canned beans, nuts, basil
- Frozen shrimp, frozen peas, dill and white wine
- Scrambled egg, frozen corn, chili powder, hot sauce
- Leftover pork, barbecue sauce, chopped green onions
- Leftover chicken, soy sauce mixed with honey, shredded spinach
- Canned salmon, butter, evaporated milk, pinch of nutmeg, chopped celery
- Feta cheese, chopped tomatoes, Greek salad dressing, oregano.

The healthy trick is to watch the ratio of rice to protein. One cup of whole-grain rice plus one half cup of protein plus one cup of vegetables is the ideal mixture.

And, whatever you do, don't contaminate the rice cooker with other food, sheesh.

THERESA ALBERT IS A FOOD COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST AND PRIVATE NUTRITIONIST IN TORONTO. SHE IS @THERESAALBERT ON TWITTER AND FOUND DAILY AT MYFRIENDINFOOD.COM



This recipe serves four. THERESA ALBERT

Quick and easy. You can have this Italian 'risotto' rice bowl on the table in mere minutes

Directions

1. In a skillet, warm oil, sauté onion and garlic, stir in walnuts and dried basil. Stir for 2 minutes. Add beans with liquid, cream and Parmesan cheese and warm through.

2. Top a bed of greens with a cup of cooked short grain rice. Top with creamy bean mixture and chopped tomatoes. THERESA ALBERT

Ingredients

- 1 teaspoon extra virgin olive oil
- 1 chopped onion
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1 cup walnuts
- 1 tbsp dried basil
- 1 can mixed beans
- 1 cup cream
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- Mixed greens
- 4 cups cooked rice (prepared in the rice cooker early in the day)
- 1 cup chopped grape tomatoes

Cream turns a simple burger rotini into a saucy dish

This recipe serves six. THERESA ALBERT

Sure, we're all trying to lose those pesky 10 or 15 or whatever pounds, but that's no reason to not keep a pint of heavy cream in the refrigerator.

Truth is, a little fat like that can go a long way to turning a basic dish into one that is exceedingly comforting. Steak, for example, is dramatically improved with a cream-based pan sauce. Puréed vegetable soups taste like indulgences with just a bit of cream. And don't even get me started about what it does for mashed potatoes and baked sweet potatoes.

Think of it as a seasoning or accent flavour, something to tie everything together.

To make my point, here is a simple and delicious weeknight-friendly pasta dinner that uses a bit of heavy cream to make the dish taste like you spent way longer on it. If you'd prefer a vegetarian version, just leave out the ground beef. And, of course, this dish is plenty versatile. Add veggies as you see fit, or substitute ground pork or chicken for the beef.

Directions

1. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the pasta and cook according to package directions, then drain.

Ingredients

- 1 pound rotini (spiral) pasta
- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1 medium yellow onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 2 teaspoons soy sauce
- Two 15-ounce cans diced tomatoes
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- Salt and ground black pepper

2. Meanwhile, in a large skillet over medium-high, combine the beef and onion and sauté, breaking up the meat with a wooden spoon. Cook until the beef is starting to brown and the onions are tender, about 8 minutes.

3. Add the garlic, red pepper flakes, soy sauce and tomatoes. Bring to a simmer and cook for 5 minutes.

4. Add the heavy cream to the meat sauce and simmer until thickened, about 2 minutes. Add the cheese, then the pasta, tossing to coat. Season with salt and pepper.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro

LEARNING CURVE

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Strengthening partnerships

University of British Columbia. School president travelling to China to expand institution's role

DANIEL HENDRIKSEN
For Metro

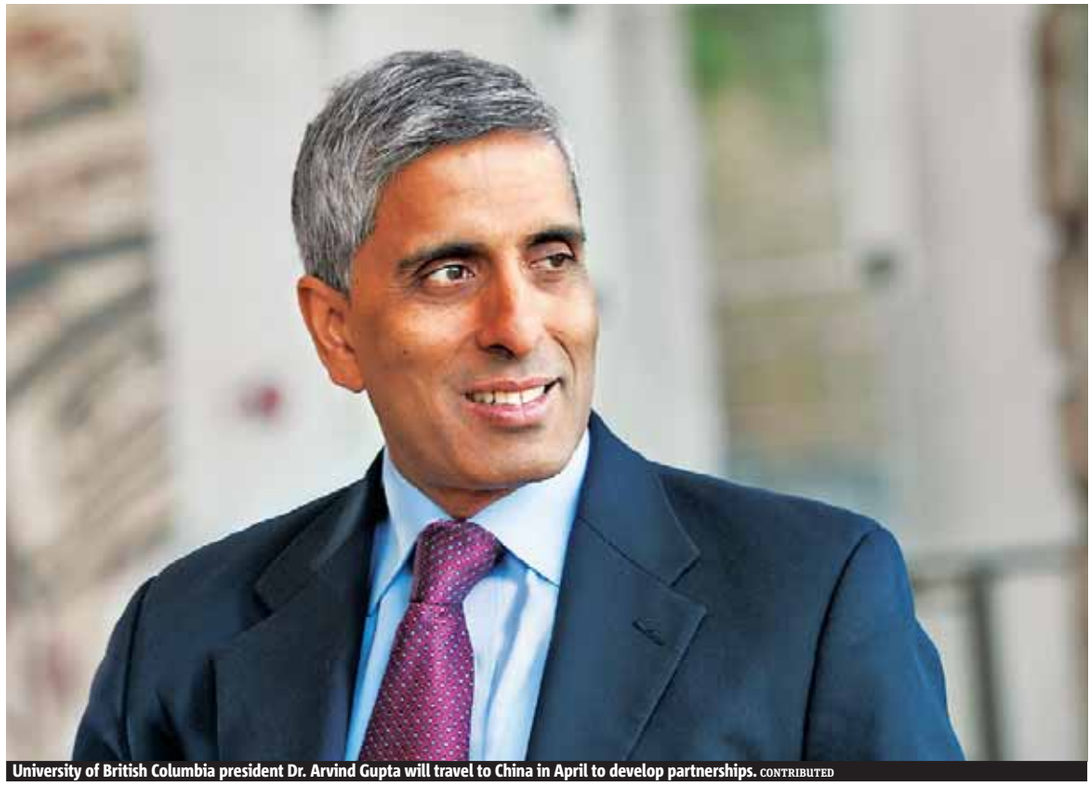
A trip to China is around the corner for University of British Columbia (UBC) president Dr. Arvind Gupta. Gupta will travel to the nation in early April with the goal of strengthening his school's commitment to developing partnerships with China that encompass research, teaching and student learning.

UBC has had a relationship with China since 1914, when the school first started accepting Chinese students. This trip will be Gupta's first to that country since being installed as UBC president in September 2014.

"Creating reciprocal international engagement opportunities for UBC students, faculty, researchers and alumni with China is an important part of UBC's strategic plan," Gupta said. "The visit to China will expand the university's role as a gateway to this vibrant academic, economic and cultural hub of the world."

The trip will take place over eight days and include stops in Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing and Hangzhou. It will also entail visits with some of China's most globally recognized post-secondary institutions such as Zhejiang, Fudan, Shanghai Jiao Tong, Southwest and Peking universities.

Exploring joint degree opportunities, student mobility and internship agreements, and meeting with senior Chinese government officials on initiatives that align with Canadian and British Columbian government missions are some of the tasks Gupta hopes to accomplish on the trip. The trip will take place from April 2-10.



University of British Columbia president Dr. Arvind Gupta will travel to China in April to develop partnerships. CONTRIBUTED

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Initiative. Digital textbooks will save students money

The provincial government is working to make post-secondary textbooks less expensive — free to be exact — through an initiative called the Open Textbook Project.

The province has been working on the project since 2012, with the goal of providing free openly licensed digital textbooks via tablets for students and faculty across the province. The idea has already saved more than $600,000 for students in B.C. There are 70 open textbooks available online.

Project officials are working to get 20 new textbooks for skills and trades open as well.

Funded by the Ministry of Education, the project has a big fan in Kwantlen Polytechnic University psychology Prof. Rajiv Jhangiani. He says educational resources are part of a shift to a more open learning philosophy, with a potential for broad use in videos, tutorials, assignments and more.

"The cost savings to students are significant," Jhangiani said. "Open textbooks are also more convenient, flexible and portable for students. As a faculty member, I am able to adapt an open textbook to fit my goals."

One of more than 50 post-secondary school faculty members across the province using open textbooks in his courses, Jhangiani has also reviewed two open texts and revised two others to create Canadian editions.

"The B.C. Open Textbook program is the first of its kind in Canada and has already saved students hundreds of thousands of dollars in textbook costs," said Chardaye Bueckert, president of the undergraduate student society at Simon Fraser University.

"It is also exciting that the B.C., Alberta and Saskatchewan governments recently signed an agreement to work together to develop and share open textbooks."

DANIEL HENDRIKSEN/FOR METRO

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Rana and Rupa Vig, along with their sons Arvind and Akash, donated copies of the 100 Year Journey to the Coast Capital Savings Library at KPU Surrey. CONTRIBUTED

Family donation helps KPU establish award

DANIEL HENDRIKSEN
For Metro

A $20,000 donation from Rana and Rupa Vig has helped Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) establish the $100,000 Mehfil Magazine Endowed Journalism Award. The Vig's endowment was made possible thanks to supporters of the 100 Year Journey publication and an event held Nov. 29.

The 100 Year Journey was held in celebration of the contributions made by South Asian pioneers in B.C., and to commemorate the arrival of the Komagata Maru in Burrard Inlet on May 23, 1914.

"We are fortunate to live in such a diverse culture that celebrates the contributions made by pioneers of all cultural backgrounds," said KPU president and vice-chancellor Dr. Alan Davis. "The Vig family has been a community leader for more than two decades and we are pleased to partner with them to celebrate the 100 Year Journey. We are grateful for their commitment to education in general and, in particular, to KPU journalism students."

The Mehfil Magazine Endowed Journalism Award was created to encourage discussion about what role or significance, if any, ethnicity and cultural background should have in contemporary journalism.

The Vig family founded Mehfil Magazine in 1993. They have always had a passion for storytelling and now that passion can be recognized through the endowed journalism awards named after the magazine at KPU.

For more information on the KPU awards and the KPU Foundation, visit kpu.ca/foundation.

Jim Pelton, KPU's executive director of continuing and professional studies, aims to bolster B.C.'s beekeeping industry. CONTRIBUTED

KPU aids effort to increase honey bee population

With the launch of a new beekeeping program, Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) will be aiding the effort to increase the honey bee population in B.C.

The first cohort of students will graduate in November 2016 and could increase B.C.'s honey production by $250,000 per year.

The commercial beekeeping program will be the first of its kind in B.C.

"There is a bee shortage in B.C.," said Jim Pelton, KPU's executive director of continuing and professional studies. "Our aim is to bolster B.C.'s beekeeping industry by providing the training that will allow our students to meet the province's growing pollination demands."

As it stands, honey bee pollination is already responsible for more than $200 million per year in agricultural production. Even if KPU's initial 16 graduates only work part time managing small colony operations, they will support more than $6 million in agricultural production per year. As the program grows, so could those numbers. According to Pelton, KPU's beekeeping program is forecast to grow from 16 students per year in each of its first three years, to 24 students per year after that.

"Our graduates will have the skills to work in, manage and grow existing beekeeping operations or establish and grow their own diversified cottage beekeeping business that could include pollination, honey and apitherapy," Pelton said.

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Langara. Athletes gather to celebrate

DANIEL HENDRIKSEN
For Metro

The Langara Falcons men's basketball team is shown with Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson. CONTRIBUTED

Two members of last year's Langara College Falcons basketball program were the recent recipients of 2015 Sport B.C. athlete of the year awards.

Brody Greig was named college athlete of the year, while men's basketball head coach Paul Eberhardt received the male coach of the year honour. Greig and Eberhardt were two key pieces of the Langara team that put together an impressive 30-1 season and went on to win the PACWEST provincial championship and the CCAA national championship.

For Greig, the award caps off a well-decorated basketball career at Langara. His resumé of awards includes PACWEST male athlete of the year across all sports, presented by PACWEST men's basketball player of the year, PACWEST first-team all-star, PACWEST provincial championship tournament MVP, and PACWEST athlete of the week three times. He was also a CCAA national all-Canadian, CCAA national championship MVP, CCAA men's basketball national champion, and CCAA male athlete of the year across all sports.

Eberhardt is also well-deserving of his award. He led the Falcons to a near perfect season and the national championship — its first since consecutive titles in 1998 and 1999. Along the way, his team was the highest scoring squad in the CCAA, averaging 99 points per game.

"Our coaches and players dedicate so much time and energy to their craft and to be recognized at an event such as the 49th annual athlete of the year awards is truly special," said Jake McCallum, Langara director, athletics and intramurals. "I could not be more proud of our award winners and nominees as they have represented our department and Langara College at this highest possible level."

JIBC recognizes International Women's Day

To commemorate International Women's Day, the Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC) hosted a presentation by Canadian documentarian, video journalist and filmmaker Alison MacLean.

MacLean discussed her experience in Afghanistan and her latest production — Burkas 2 Bullets: Afghan Police Women.

The event took place at JIBC's New Westminster campus on March 9. The timing of the presentation was fitting as the number of women police recruits training at JIBC is on the rise. According to instructor Linda Stewart, 15 of the 35 recruits from five different police agencies are female.

"Almost half are female, which is great. It's such a good career for women because there are so many opportunities in so many areas where you can find your niche," said Stewart, who is a 35-year veteran of the Vancouver Police Department. "It's not a career where everything is the same. Every day is totally different."

With police departments in Canada looking to increase the number of female members from diverse cultural backgrounds in order to better represent the communities they serve, now is an excellent time for women to get into a career in policing.

"The important thing is that women have to maintain the same standards as men," Stewart said. "There are no special requirements, the women are right up there with the men, they have the same qualifications to get in and they have to maintain the same standards throughout their training at the police academy."

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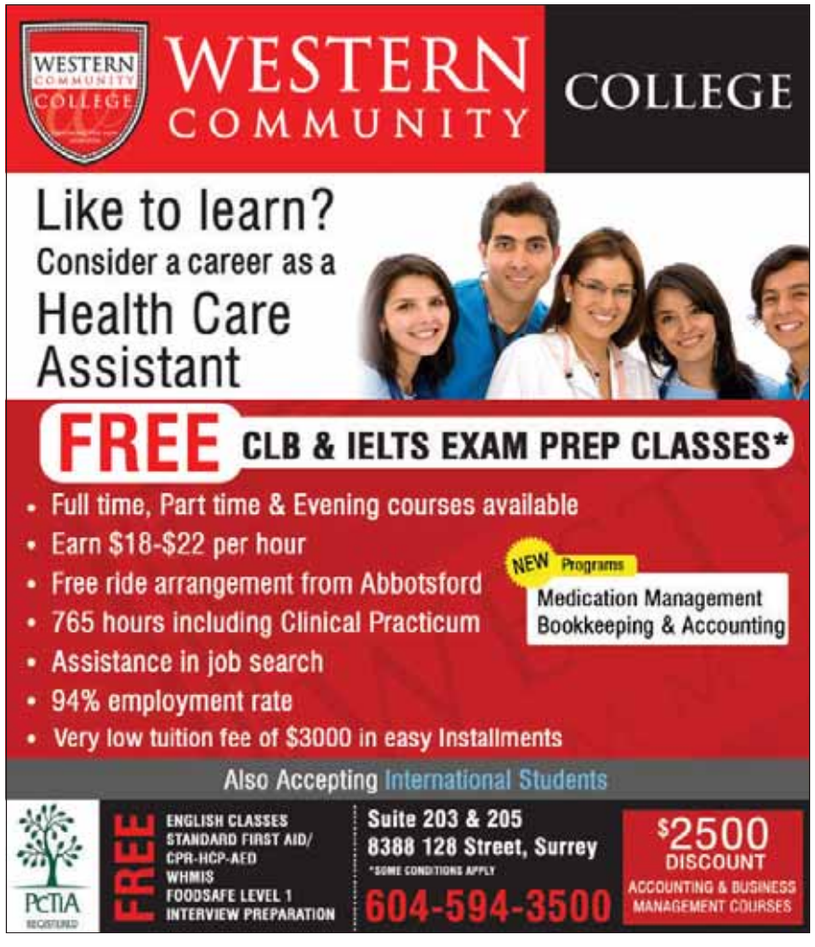

Interesting campus facilities in Canada

SHUTTERSTOCK

Think on-campus life is solely about snoozing, studying and stuffing yourself with pizza? Think again, because post-secondary schools across Canada are working to set the bar high when it comes to in-school engagement. So high, in fact, that in some cases you may need to sport a harness to reach the top.

"Over 1000 students a week are using our facility," says Cheryl Harwardt, director of operations for the University of Alberta's brand new Physical Activity and Wellness Centre. The facility, along with its numerous athletic offerings, boasts a 7000-square-foot climbing centre for bouldering, climbing and repelling.

"The facility is the realization of a dream of group of forward-thinking, student-focused people working together to build a community here at the school," Harwardt adds.

And it's not just athletic facilities that are helping to give Canada's campuses a colourful boost. The University of Guelph-Humber building in Toronto is home to a living wall on which sprouts such beautiful offerings as geraniums, hibiscus, fuchsia and ivies year-round. The space is designed with the intention of providing students with a peaceful, serene place to study among the brick and mortar of a city campus

Reba Noel, student engagement coordinator for Langara College in Vancouver, points to the new use of Think Tank spaces on campus as a unique and exciting resource that the school has to offer both its students and staff.

Noel describes Langara's ThinkTank hub as an open room with no stationary furniture, incorporating a standard projector and screen, a Polyvision smartboard and two collaborative workstations with flat screen televisions.

The arrangement of the space allows users to configure it in whatever way that works for their needs.

"The fact that users can make it their own helps them feel more relaxed in the room, contributing to an increase in creativity and productivity, she says.

Due to it not being designated solely as a classroom space, it has been booked for all forms of community congregation including club meetings, parties, and instructional sessions, making it an ideal beacon for student engagement.

"It can be a space where folks are quietly prepping or studying, or a space where folks are talkative, joking, singing and playing games."

– Elizabeth Beddall

Construction expansion creating demand

CONTRIBUTED

Expansion demand in residential, commercial, and industrial properties has led to a significant rise in the need for skilled trades workers.

According to WorkBC, approximately 160,000 job openings will take place until 2022, 34 per cent of which will be new positions and the remaining 66 per cent are existing ones.

Unlike other occupations where textbook studying may be sufficient, trades workers from programs such as Plumber Foundation and Construction Electrician Foundation depend on hands-on training to learn, develop, and adapt their skills before entering the field.

"Once you go onto the job site, if you haven't had any hands-on training, you're kind of lost," said Plumber Foundation graduate Evan F. "You can have all the information in the world but there's little tricks how to do everything when you're working with your hands."

Vancouver Career College provides a student-focused environment so that they can get the one-on-one feedback they need to improve and excel in their field of study.

Many programs, such as the Plumber Foundation and Construction Electrician Foundation programs, include practicum placements so students can hone their skills and techniques as well as gain real-world experience.

Graduates from the programs can apply for apprentice positions in their respective fields.

For more information on Vancouver Career College's Trades Programs, call 1-800-993-4086 or visit study.vccollege.ca.

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VANCOUVER CAREER COLLEGE

Studio 58 students in the spotlight

If you've always dreamed of a career in theatre, welcome to the stage at Studio 58 at Langara College in Vancouver.

Studio 58 is a professional theatre training program and provides intensive training for actors and production personnel at an industry standard.

As one of Canada's top training programs offering a conservatory style, the emphasis is on practical training with technique classes during the day and productions at night (a sold-out run of Oklahoma is just finishing).

Students in both the three-year Acting program and the two-year Production program learn all aspects of theatre, explains Sherri Sadler, a spokesperson for the program.

Production students take acting classes so they have a good understanding of what it means to be an actor. Conversely, acting students spend time on production crews.

By the time students receive their diplomas, they've worked with professional directors and designers and are prepared for a diverse career in theatre, film, television, and related arts.

CONTRIBUTED

Celebrating its 50th anniversary next year, Studio 58 has a successful placement rate with over 90 per cent of students having agents and contracts at graduation.

The application deadline for up-coming auditions is April 10. Auditions are being held in Toronto, Ottawa, Edmonton, Winnipeg and Vancouver.

VCC launches revitalized hospitality programs

As a leader in hospitality management training in B.C., Vancouver Community College strives to meet employer demands and respond to industry trends. VCC is proud to deliver a new and revitalized curriculum — built on VCC's reputable programs and driven by industry experts.

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"I chose VCC because it's in the heart of hospitality in Vancouver and has a fantastic reputation. The course load is relevant and the instructors are industry professionals." – Caitlin

3. Industry connections
"VCC's program was a conversation point as employers knew many of the instructors from within the industry." – Bernie

4. Industry-relevant curriculum
"The program continues to be relevant and practical. VCC instructors are industry experts who provide knowledge and insight to future employees." – Kristina

CONTRIBUTED

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"VCC was an excellent investment in my future — from valuable life lessons and a well-rounded education, to networking and job preparation." – Brock

Join VCC at a free info session on March 24 or 30 to learn more. vcc.ca/infosession.

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L to R – Sean Sonier, Warren Abbott, Erin Cassidy, Arash Ghorbani (seated), Markian Tarasiuk & John Cook.
ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST, directed by Partick McDonald. Photo by David Cooper.

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VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Critical thinking, literacy top priorities

Madrona teaches fundamental skills

A small school in Vancouver is putting a new spin on High School.

Madrona is a K-7 independent school that specializes in the needs of highly able students. They're launching a new High School program, starting with Grade 8 in September 2015.

"We want to give young adults the skills they need to flourish in the world they'll live in," says Eric O'Donnell, Director of Madrona School. "No one can predict exactly what the job market or geopolitical landscape will be when these kids are building their lives. So we focus on the timeless skills that will enrich them in any circumstance: Reading, writing, Mathematics. Technological and scientific literacy.

CONTRIBUTED

Critical thinking. Empathy."

The idea is to teach fundamental skills that give students a solid background in the ways of thinking they'll need to continuously acquire and analyze knowledge in a rapidly-changing world.

"We give them time to process what they're learning, to consider how it fits into their concept of the world."

For high ability children who thrive when they learn, ensuring they have the skills to continue doing so throughout their lives might be the greatest gift of all.

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Janet knew that to advance in her career she needed to finish her degree. The problem — she could not quit her job and put her life on hold to go back to university. Janet found her solution at Trinity Western University.

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The adult–focused BA Degree Completion program, offered one night a week in Richmond, Langley or online, provides busy adults with the opportunity to complete their degree in as little as two years.

"With a focus on workplace-relevant coursework and assignments, the program provides the opportunity to interact, network and learn from experienced faculty and other adults in an environment rich in exchange of ideas," says Sandy Cameron, Richmond Program Advisor.

Their BA in Leadership Degree Completion program is attracting a wide range of adults currently working in business, health care, banking, public safety, education and more.

"Everything rises and falls on leadership," says Linda Long, Executive Director of TWU Extension. "Good leadership involves motivating and mobilizing people toward a common goal. The better the leadership at every level, the more successful the organization."

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See how you, too, can invest in your future by finishing your degree. Visit trinitywestern.com or call 604-513-2067 today to learn about classes in Richmond, Langley or online.

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Finding the right rhythm

The best time to study for exams will vary from person to person

You are staring at your academic calendar and it's time to slot in study time for that enormous exam. But would those notes be best retained when reviewed in the light of day or under the cloak of dark night?

Jodi Nickel, chair and associate professor of the department of education at Mount Royal University, says the best time for study will vary from person to person.

"We all have rhythms that work best for our body," Nickel says. "Times when we're best able to focus and times when our energy level is low."

Nickel says the ideal study time for some students is the morning, when they are fresh and alert. But others will focus better in the evening when all other distractions of the day are over.

"However, if you know you're a procrastinator, you're likely to leave yourself too little time to study if you wait until evening," she says, suggesting this personality type might want to try to slot a time earlier in the day.

Rebecca MacPherson, a sessional instructor at Brock University, who recently completed her doctoral studies in Brock's faculty of applied health sciences, knows the struggles of a fierce session of studying.

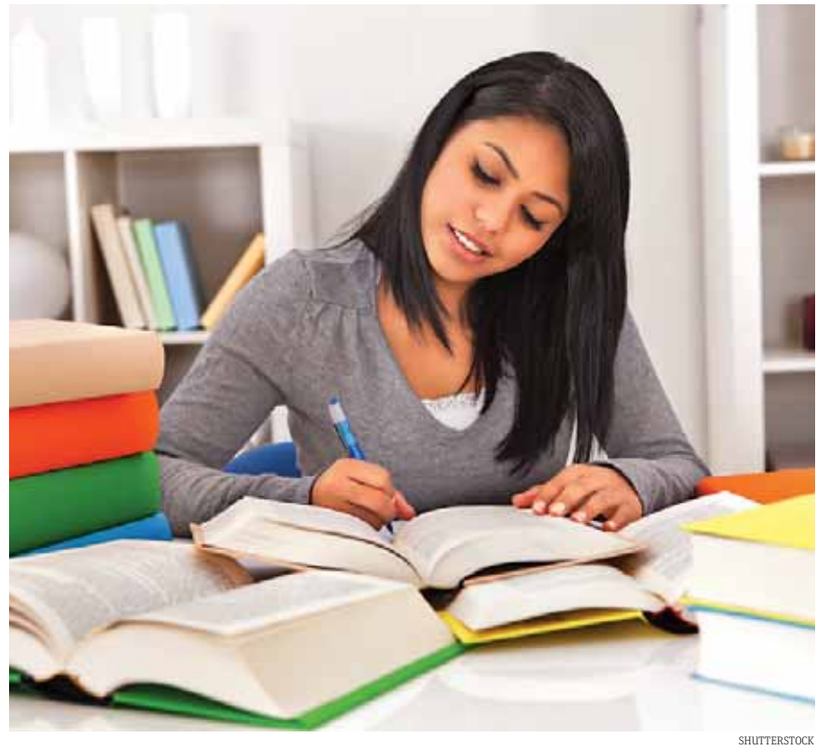
"Everyone is different and will have a different best time to study," says MacPherson, who admits that her study sessions were anytime other than the early morning.

"But whatever you do, don't wait until the last minute to study — start early and plan," she says. "Rewrite notes in short form to study from. If you can explain a concept to a friend without looking at your notes then you know you are ready."

Constance Crompton, assistant professor of digital humanities and critical studies at the University of British Columbia, says that without advanced planning, discovering the perfect time of day for study will be of little use.

"Studying is a bit like going to the gym," Crompton says. "If you can set aside a regularly scheduled time to study, for example from 10 until noon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, then you won't have to spend the rest of the day anticipating a study session."

– Elizabeth Beddall



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ESL program helps immigrants settle

Vancouver Community College hosts info night

CONTRIBUTED

For people new to Canada, the pathway to success is made dramatically easier the better you can understand the markers along the road. Vancouver Community College has recently launched an English-as-a-Second-Language program to help immigrants navigate those Pathways.

VCC is hosting two one-hour information programs on March 26 at 6:30 p.m. and March 31 at 10:30 a.m. at its downtown campus. It's a program that students, like VCC's ESL Pathways student Shih-Ting (Erica) Huang, have been looking for to help them with their transition to Canada.

"Like the name, I think this program helps immigrants settle in society," Huang said. "I need to improve my English. There is a big gap between myself and English speaking society. This program will help me to close the gap."

Huang understands the challenges and benefits of teaching another language to students, and how that education progresses through the community. Huang works as a Mandarin tutor in the lower mainland when she isn't studying.

Vancouver Community College's Pathways ESL program is designed to help students build language and communication skills to help them navigate the academic, professional, and social communities. The goal is to give students the linguistic tools they need to help facilitate their integration into Canadian society.

The upcoming information sessions are open to students interested in learning more about the program and to answer any questions they may have about the registration process, the course outline, and time frames.

The sessions are being hosted at the campus' downtown location, located at 250 West Pender St. in Vancouver.

Vancouver Community College's next term begins in early April, so if students are interested in learning more about the program they are encouraged to sign up for and attend one of the two information sessions at vcc.ca/infosessions or to call 1-866-565-7820.

Feeling at home in a new country, province, or community can be a challenge if you have challenges understanding or interacting with the people and places within it. VCC's Pathways ESL program can help give you the linguistic tools and resources you need to navigate your pathway to success, comfort, and happiness.

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VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE 50 YEARS

Getting involved in charity work

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After a rare disease infected her hip and landed her in the hospital for an extended period of time, 16-year-old Lilly Stephenson, moved by how much the hospital's volunteers had helped to lift her spirits, decided that giving back was her calling.

The busy Rockwood, Ontario student now splits her weekends between volunteering at an animal rescue center and engaging in music therapy with young mothers and their children at a local women's shelter — the youngest person ever to have been selected for the role.

When was the first time you ever became involved in volunteer work?
The first time I ever did any volunteering was when a woman came to my school in grade four, who founded Children of Bukati. Her name was Dr. Dewey and she provides help to AIDS orphans who can't afford education in Kenya. I decided to take the initiative to do some additional fundraising on my own. With help from my mom and a few friends we managed to raise 2000 dollars for the charity.

And what drove you to help this organization in particular?
I was really impressed by what she was doing. It kind of broke my heart when I saw how many students couldn't afford to go to school, sometimes because they couldn't afford uniforms.

So what drives you to do all this good in your community?
Well I guess I always just loved helping other people, it gives me such joy just to know that I'm helping other people that are less fortunate.

What advice would you give to other young students thinking about giving back, but not knowing where to begin?
I'd say gather some friends with the same interests and same passion. It's so easy to get involved in your community. Go online and research charities that need volunteers. It's also so easy to do stuff within your school, you can sell anything, I raised a ton of money just selling cookies and ice cream sandwiches.

Where do you see yourself in the future?
My dream job is to be a musical therapist and to go into places like women's shelters and hospitals to help kids the same way that the volunteers at the hospital helped me. My two passions are music and helping people. So it's a perfect combination of the two.

Learn how to give support to others

The Social Services Worker program is often filled with individuals who are inspired by personal experience and hope to provide support for others like graduate Jessica W. Upon graduating, Jessica was hired as a Youth Care Worker, helping those affected by issues such as substance and physical abuse, homelessness, mental health issues, and more.

"I have always wanted to be a part of the community," she said. "CDI College provided me with not only a great education to pursue a career but helped me grow as a person and find who I was and who I wanted to be."

Becoming a social services worker is a life-changing career.

Not only will you be helping those who are directly affected by these issues, you will guide and inspire them to rebuild a future for themselves and the people around them.

CDI College provides a more tactile, intimate learning environment for students.

With smaller class sizes, students and instructors will have more immediate and direct communication so "when it's time for you to go out in the field, you feel more ready and confident," said Jessica.

Graduates from the Social Services Worker program can pursue specializations in the Youth or Recovery Specialist programs.

To learn more about the Social Services Worker program, call 1-800-360-7186 or visit study.cdicollege.ca.

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Osteopathy: the art of healing hands

Osteopathy aims to restore function in the body naturally by treating the causes of pain and imbalance. To do so, an osteopathic manual practitioner works with the position, mobility and quality of tissues through hand "palpations."

"Osteopathy is both an art and a science," says Merrill LaLonde, an osteopathic practitioner, who is also a clinical supervisor and teacher at the Vancouver college.

The art is the practice of palpation, using the hands to feel the body's tissue (commonly called "listening") to determine when something feels off or misaligned. The science involves a study of biomechanics — the movement of the joints, connective tissue, cranial bones and organs, from head to toe, to ensure they're moving properly and getting sufficient blood flow.

Osteopathic practitioners can treat a variety of conditions in children and adults, including soft-tissue strains like tendonitis and respiratory problems like chronic bronchitis, as well as concussions, migraines, back pain, sciatica and digestion trouble.

The results will vary with the diagnosis and how long the patient has had the problem. "Most people see decreased pain and increased mobility fairly soon after their first treatment," says LaLonde.

To find an osteopathic practitioner near you, consult the Society for the Promotion of Manual Practice Osteopathy's member directory at osteopathybc.ca/members. The treatments are covered by many private health-insurance plans.

For those seeking a health-care career that involves healing hands, the Canadian School of Osteopathy Manual Practice offers a part-time, five-year osteopathic practitioner diploma program. Located at 1150 Station St. in Vancouver — in the Via rail station, (mezanine level) — the college is affiliated with Collège d'Études Ostéopathiques, the parent school in Montreal.

The Canadian School of Osteopathy Manual Practice is the only one of its kind in British Columbia recognized by the provincial Private Career Training Institutions Agency.

For more information or to register for the program starting in September, contact Louise Seguin at 1-800-263-2816.

CONTRIBUTED

PREREQUISITES

A CSO-trained osteopathic manual practitioner must hold a diploma or degree in medicine, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, nursing, sports and athletic therapy, chiropractic, veterinary medicine, midwifery, acupuncture or massage therapy (3,000 hours) prior to entering the program of study in Osteopathic Manual Practice.

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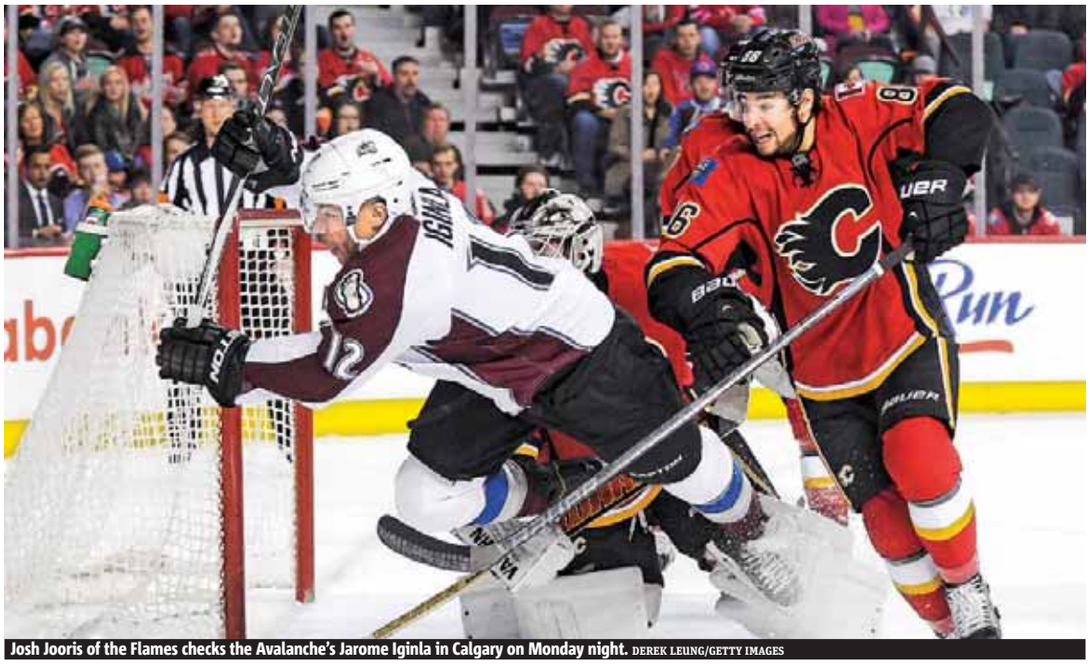

Josh Jooris of the Flames checks the Avalanche's Jarome Iginla in Calgary on Monday night. DEREK LEUNG/GETTY IMAGES

Bouma, Jones help Flames melt Avs

NHL. Calgary stays ahead of L.A. for third place in Pacific Division

Lance Bouma and David Jones each had a goal and an assist to lead the Calgary Flames to a 3-2 win over the Colorado Avalanche on Monday.

Jiri Hudler also scored for the Flames (40-27-6), while goalie Kari Ramo made 25 saves to record his 15th win of the season.

Calgary held on to third place in the Pacific Division ahead of the Los Angeles Kings (35-23-14), who skated to a 3-1 road win over the New Jersey Devils earlier on Monday.

Gabriel Landeskog had a goal and an assist for the Avalanche (33-27-12), while goalie Semyon Varlamov finished with 23 saves. Alex Tanguay also scored.

Ramo made a nice save to turn aside a slapshot off the stick of Ryan O'Reilly six minutes into the first period before Markus Granlund picked up the puck and hit Bouma in stride with a pass.

Bouma then broke into the Colorado zone on a 2-on-1 with Jones, who took a pass from his linemate and fired a wrist shot into the net over Varlamov's outstretched glove hand.

The Avs tied things up at 17:46 of the first when Tanguay swatted a pass from Landeskog past Ramo.

The Flames then went up 2-1 with 16 seconds left in the first when Dennis Wideman fired a sharp-angle shot towards the Colorado net that deflected off Hudler's foot and past a stunned Varlamov.

Calgary added an insurance marker at 8:40 of the third when Bouma tipped T.J. Brodie's point shot past Varlamov before Landeskog rounded out the scoring just over two minutes later.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On Monday

Flames	Avalanche
3	2

CFL

Lions ink veterans Phillips, McCallum

The B.C. Lions, still in the midst of this off-season of change within multiple facets of the organization, have brought back two veteran players.

The Lions announced a contract extension for 32-year-old defensive back Ryan Phillips, who is now signed through the 2016 season. Kicker Paul McCallum, who turned 45 years old in January, is also back for the 2015 campaign.

McCallum, who made 90.5 per cent of his field goals last year, will be back for his 23rd CFL season.

"Both Paul and Ryan remain integral parts of our team as they continue to perform at a high level on the field and play a vital role as respected leaders in the dressing room," said general manager Wally Buono in a statement.

Phillips will enter his 11th season in the league, all of them with the Lions. Last year, he recorded three interceptions and 39 tackles, and has appeared in 180 straight games since 2005.

CAM TUCKER/METRO

The Lions have re-signed defensive back Ryan Phillips. DEREK LEUNG/GETTY IMAGES

Lowry named head coach of national juniors

Dave Lowry behind the bench with the Flames as an assistant coach in December 2011. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Dave Lowry has a simple message for Canada's world junior hockey hopefuls — stay the course.

An assistant with the team that won gold on home soil in January, the 50-year-old was named Monday as head coach for the 2016 tournament.

"We're going to continue to build on the momentum that we generated," Lowry said on a conference call. "The mindset and mandate moving forward will be that we're once again going to take the best players and we're going to make the players buy into playing the game a certain way, and that will be our way."

Resumé

The head coach of the WHL's Victoria Royals for the last three years, Lowry played 1,084 games over 19 NHL seasons with the Vancouver Canucks, St. Louis Blues, Florida Panthers, San Jose Sharks and Calgary Flames.

Canada won the most recent tournament in Montreal and Toronto to end a five-year drought thanks to a structure similar to the one employed with the men's team at the Olympics, and Lowry said that won't change.

"We will continue to use the Olympic model, (but) we now have our model moving forward that was very successful in 2015," said the Ottawa native. "We will create that legacy moving forward with the 2016 team."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Calipari confident in Kentucky's depth

NCAA basketball. Wildcats have proven hard to beat because if some players fail to shine on the day, other inevitably will

John Calipari JOE ROBBINS/GETTY IMAGES

Good teams have tried various ways to beat Kentucky. The game plans have included getting physical with them, trying to force the unbeaten Wildcats to take jump shots, double-teaming post players, playing up-tempo so Kentucky can't set its defence, pressing them.

These tactics and others have worked to some extent in box scores, just not on the scoreboard. No matter who Kentucky plays or how well they play, the consensus seems to be if the Wildcats play to their potential, they won't lose.

That makes Kentucky's toughest opponent, well, Kentucky. Fifth-seeded West Virginia might be Kentucky's stiffest challenge so far, with the Mountaineers expected to try and use their defensive pressure and physicality to derail the Wildcats (36-0) in Thursday night's NCAA Tournament regional semifinal in Cleveland.

One of the burning questions in college basketball this season is how to beat Kentucky.

The answer seems to rest with the Wildcats. For Kentucky to lose with its length, depth and experience, it feels like each player in John Calipari's nine-deep rotation needs to have an off night. It's possible, just seems unlikely it'll happen in the same game.

"The good news is there's enough guys that, if two or three aren't playing well, we can still survive," the Kentucky coach said after watching his team shoot just 37 per cent and get out-rebounded 45-38 by Cincinnati, and still advance to the Sweet 16 with a 64-51 win on Saturday.

Calipari isn't just spewing coach-speak. The stats back up his observation.

Eight of the nine players in the rotation are averaging between 5.8 and 11.1 points per game. Eight different players have been Kentucky's leading scorer this season.

Even when a team has some in-game success against Kentucky, Calipari has enough talent to mix and match lineups until he finds a combination that works. Having "reinforcements," as the coach calls them, has also succeeded in wearing down opponents.

"Every team always plays us with different strategies," six-foot-11 freshman Karl-Anthony Towns said. "Everyone has different stuff they do. We don't get much time to scout and we just have to get into the groove while the game is going on. You just feel them out. That's how it always is."

Not many teams have been "scared" of Kentucky - though all have been overmatched in the end.

"You're going to have to be the better team for 40 minutes," Hampton coach Edward Joyner Jr. said after his team's 79-56 opening-round loss to Kentucky. "You don't have to go in being the best team, you have to be the best team for that night. But it's going to take a great 40 minutes to beat those guys." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"The good news is there's enough guys that, if two or three aren't playing well, we can still survive."

Kentucky coach John Calipari

Angels make easy work of Mariners

Los Angeles Angels shortstop Erick Aybar tags Seattle Mariners Marcus Littlewood during the sixth inning of Monday's spring training game in Tempe, Ariz. Matt Shoemaker combined with three relievers on a two-hitter, and the Angels beat the Mariners 5-0. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Rub of the Green helps Grizzlies

Jeff Green had 23 points and Mike Conley scored 21 with nine assists to lead the Memphis Grizzlies to a 97-86 victory over the struggling Portland Trail Blazers on Saturday night.

Zach Randolph added 17 points for Memphis, which won its second straight. Marc Gasol had 13 points, and Tony Allen finished with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Skeleton

Canada bids to host 2019 worlds

Canada wants to bring the world's fastest sliding athletes back to the track that hosted the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Bobsleigh Canada Skeleton announced today it's bidding to host the 2019 world championship. In addition to hosting the 2010 Games, the venue has also staged multiple World Cup events as well as the 2013 luge world championships.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Arson

Ex NHLer facing fire charges

A former National Hockey League player faces two arson charges in connection to a fire at his father's home last week. Stephen Peat, 35, turned himself into RCMP in Langley, B.C., on Thursday and was charged with arson with disregard for human life and arson causing property damage. RCMP Cpl. Holly Marks said that the flames started after a domestic dispute between a father and son.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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AUGMENTED REALITY

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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Your powers of persuasion are such that you can get almost anything you desire. But don't be too pushy, especially on the work front.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Venus in your sign means you can get almost anything you want – and if you don't believe that now you will before the day is over.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Don't worry too much if you don't get much done over the next 24 hours. Give yourself a rest and do what makes you feel good rather than what gets you ahead.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You can no longer rely on other people to come to your rescue if you mess up. You got away recently with it because others caught you but now the safety net has gone.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Something will happen today that makes you realize how much more is possible and how far short of your potential you have been falling.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You need to get away from your current environment. You may not be able to get away immediately but what you decide today will make it easier for your future escape.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Don't be too eager to uncover other people's secrets or they may start digging around in your affairs — and who knows what they might find!

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
With Venus, planet of harmony, moving through your opposite sign you will have to follow as much as you lead. A partnership begun now will bring advantages for both of you, so try sharing.

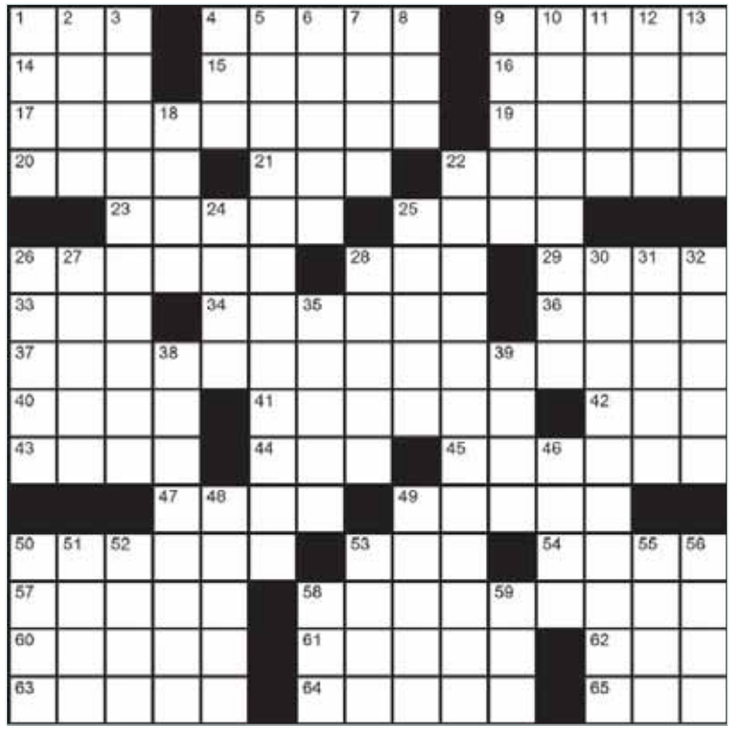
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Everyone you meet will be nice to you today and you will be nice back. However, don't let your guard down because one such "nice" individual has designs on your money.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
This is a good time to start something creative. It may take up a lot of your time but what you get back will more than balance what you put in.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Venus will ensure that family affairs go smoothly in the near future. If there have been any disputes now is the time to sort them out together.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
This is a good day to get out and about. If you make new friends over the next 24 hours they may well become friends for life.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. "60 Minutes" network
4. 3501 in Old Rome
9. Rapscallion
14. Be delinquent with dollars
15. Sailing spot
16. Ms. Sharapova of tennis
17. Posh procession
19. Administer
20. __ and terminer
21. Add-__ (Accessories)
22. Noisy floor effects
23. Approache
25. Fantastic tale
26. Bakery bargain, __-__ bread
28. Brooch
29. Herman Melville tale
33. "Lager and __" by Kim Mitchell
34. __ _ = The sixth letter of 'Toronto'
36. Placing
37. Sugar to a strawberry or salt to a tomato: 2 wds.
40. Campsite warmer
41. "Fine then.": 3 wds.
42. Sports org.
43. "__, _ can." (Can-do attitude)
44. "Dancing with the Stars" co-host ...her initials-sharers
45. First Greek letters
47. Their: French
49. A-List
50. Symbol
53. __ rata
54. Constellation bear
57. More achy
58. Listener's picks of songs
60. Somewhat
61. Canadian singer Ms. Gallant
62. "__ la la!"
63. Have a hunch
64. Mariner's measures
65. Voter's 'no'

Down
1. Ice-T's wife
2. New York's theatrical destination, fun-style
3. 1756 to 1763 conflict, __ __' War
4. Actress Gretchen "Ghosts of __ __"
5. Montreal history/arts attraction: 2 wds.
6. Stands for
7. Cookies brand
8. 'Hero' suffix
9. Intelligent
10. Gordon Lightfoot seafaring tune:
11. Italian harp
12. Sealtest product
13. Compensates
18. Prefix that means 'Mars'
22. CTV's "The Social" co-host: 2 wds.
24. Too
25. Writer A.A.
26. Mr. Duck
27. Rachel McAdams' "The Notebook" (2004) role
28. Non-Royals
30. "The Marilyn Denis Show" expert Charles the Butler's surname
31. Big lake of Russia
32. Gumbo veggie [pl.]
35. Bellowing
38. Like a bride without any head covering
39. Mythical Hun king
46. Cute-sounding "Ick!"
48. Uncanny
49. Love poetry Muse
50. After-the-name courtesy titles for gents [abbr.]
51. Grimace
52. Fibre cereal
53. Scheme
55. Ancient colonnade
56. Cinder-like
58. Walther _ _ _ (James Bond firearm)
59. Fleur-de-__

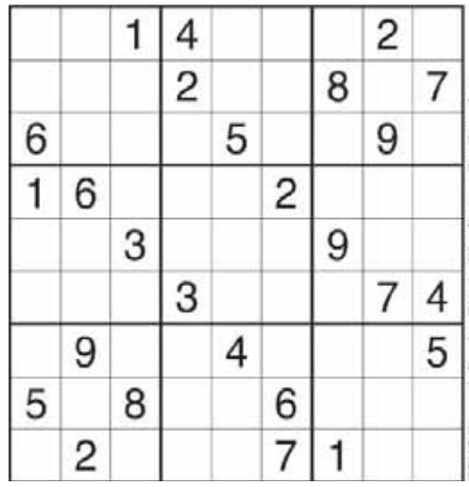
Yesterday's Crossword

Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



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Yesterday's Sudoku

2	4	1	7	3	8	9	5	6
3	9	5	1	4	6	7	2	8
6	7	8	9	2	5	1	3	4
1	3	6	2	5	9	4	8	7
9	2	4	8	7	1	5	6	3
5	8	7	4	6	3	2	9	1
7	5	3	6	9	4	8	1	2
8	6	2	5	1	7	3	4	9
4	1	9	3	8	2	6	7	5

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On select models††. Dealer is reimbursed a holdback amount included in invoice price by the manufacturer for each vehicle sold*.

PLUS UNTIL MARCH 31ST

GET AN ADDITIONAL $500 AUTO SHOW PRICE ADJUSTMENT

ON SELECT 2015 MODELS▽

2015 ACCENT 5DR L MANUAL

2014 Accent "Highest Ranked Small Car in Initial Quality in the U.S.!**"

HWY: 6.3L/100 KM
CITY: 8.9L/100 KM▼

GLS model shown♦

LEASE FOR $70 BIWEEKLY FOR 60 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN THAT'S LIKE PAYING

$35 WEEKLY AT 0% LEASE◊ OR FINANCING†

FINANCE FOR 96 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN OWN IT FOR

DEALER INVOICE PRICE OF $14,558‡ INCLUDES $636 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS○, DELIVERY AND DESTINATION FEES.

2015 ELANTRA L MANUAL CLEAROUT

2014 Elantra "Highest Ranked Compact Car in Initial Quality in the U.S.!**"

HWY: 6.7L/100 KM
CITY: 9.7L/100 KM▼

Limited model shown♦

LEASE FOR $78 BIWEEKLY FOR 60 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN THAT'S LIKE PAYING

$39 WEEKLY AT 0% LEASE◊ OR FINANCING†

FINANCE FOR 96 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN OWN IT FOR

DEALER INVOICE PRICE OF $16,275‡ INCLUDES $719 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS○, DELIVERY AND DESTINATION FEES.

2015 TUCSON GL CLEAROUT

HWY: 9.3L/100 KM
CITY: 11.6L/100 KM▼

Limited model shown♦

LEASE FOR $114 BIWEEKLY, THAT'S LIKE PAYING

$57 WEEKLY AT 0.9% LEASE FOR 60 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN◊

OR GET 0% FINANCING FOR 84 MONTHS†

DEALER INVOICE PRICE OF $23,286‡ INCLUDES $473 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS○, DELIVERY AND DESTINATION FEES.

2015 SANTA FE SPORT 2.4L

HWY: 9.8L/100 KM
CITY: 12.9L/100 KM▼

Limited model shown♦

AWARDED THE HIGHEST GOVERNMENT CRASH SAFETY RATING* U.S. NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION — 5-Star Overall Crash Safety Rating*

LEASE FOR $150 BIWEEKLY, THAT'S LIKE PAYING

$75 WEEKLY LEASE◊ OR FINANCING†

AT 1.9% LEASE FOR 60 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN◊

OR 0% FINANCING FOR 84 MONTHS WITH $250 DOWN†

DEALER INVOICE PRICE OF $27,381‡ INCLUDES $1,313 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS○, DELIVERY AND DESTINATION FEES.

2015 7-PASSENGER SANTA FE XL

HWY: 9.7L/100 KM
CITY: 13.0L/100 KM▼

Limited model shown♦

7 PASSENGER SEATING

LEASE FOR $170 BIWEEKLY, THAT'S LIKE PAYING

$85 WEEKLY LEASE◊ OR FINANCING†

AT 2.99% LEASE FOR 60 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN◊

OR 0% FINANCING FOR 84 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN†

DEALER INVOICE PRICE OF $30,315‡ INCLUDES $1,479 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS○, DELIVERY AND DESTINATION FEES.

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5 YEAR WARRANTY
5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty††
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

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®/™The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. ‡Dealer Invoice Price of $14,558/$16,275/$23,286/$27,381/$30,315 available on all new 2015 Accent 5-Door L 6-speed Manual/Elantra L 6-speed Manual/Tucson GL FWD Manual/Santa Fe Sport 2.4L FWD/Santa Fe XL FWD models and includes price adjustments of $636/$719/$473/$1,313/$,1,479. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,595/$1,595/$1,760/$1,795/$1,795. Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, license fees and applicable taxes. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.E. and a full tank of gas. *The customer prices are those reflected on the dealer invoice from Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. The dealer invoice price includes a holdback amount for which the dealer is subsequently reimbursed by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. ΩPrice adjustments of up to $636/$719/$473/$1,313/$1,479 available on all new 2015 Accent 5-Door L Manual/Elantra Sedan L Manual/Tucson GL FWD Manual/Santa Fe Sport 2.4L FWD/Santa Fe XL FWD models. Price adjustments applied before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available offers. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. ◊Leasing offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2015 Accent 5-Door L 6-speed Manual/Elantra L 6-speed Manual/Tucson GL FWD Manual/Santa Fe Sport 2.4L FWD/Santa Fe XL FWD with an annual lease rate of 0%/0%/0.9%/1.9%/2.99%. Biweekly lease payment of $70/$78/$114/$150/$170 for a 60-month walk-away lease. Down Payment of $0 and first monthly payment required. Total lease obligation is $9,100/$10,140/$14,820/$19,500/$22,100. Lease offers include Delivery and Destination of $1,595/$1,595/$1,760/$1,795/$1,795. Lease offer excludes registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, license fees and applicable taxes $0 security deposit on all models. 20,000 km allowance per year applies. Additional charge of $0.12/km.†Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2015 Accent 5-Door L 6-speed Manual/Elantra L 6-speed Manual/Tucson GL FWD Manual/Santa Fe Sport 2.4L FWD/Santa Fe XL FWD with an annual finance rate of 0% for 96/96/84/84/84 months. Weekly payments are $35/$39/$57/$75/$85. $0/$0/$2,500/$250/$0 down payment required. Cost of Borrowing is $0. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination of $1,595/$1,595/$1,760/$1,795/$1,795. Finance offers exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, license fees and applicable taxes Financing example: 2015 Accent 5-Door L 6-speed Manual for $14,558 at 0% per annum equals $35 weekly for 96 months for a total obligation of $14,558. $0 down payment required. Cash price is $14,558. Cost of Borrowing is $0. Example price includes Delivery and Destination of $1,595. Finance example excludes registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, license fees and applicable taxes ♦Prices of models shown: 2015 Accent GLS Auto/Elantra Limited/Tucson Limited AWD/Santa Fe Sport Limited AWD/Santa Fe XL Limited AWD are $21,144/$26,794/$35,759/$41,444/$45,094. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,595/$1,595/$1,760/$1,795/$1,795, levies and all applicable charges. Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer. ▼Fuel consumption for new 2015 Accent GLS (HWY 6.3L/100KM; City 8.9L/100KM); 2015 Elantra Limited (HWY 6.7L/100KM; City 9.7L/100KM); 2015 Tucson Limited AWD (HWY 9.3L/100KM; City 11.6L/100KM);2015 Santa Fe Sport Limited AWD (HWY 9.8L/100KM; City 12.9L/100KM); 2015 Santa Fe XL Limited AWD (HWY 9.7L/100 KM; City 13.0L/100 KM); are based on Manufacturer Testing. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. ∇Purchasers or lessees of a new 2015 Hyundai (except the following model trims: 15MY Accent 4DR L 6MT, 15MY Elantra Sedan L 6MT, 15MY Tucson GL FWD MT, & 15MY Santa Fe Sport Base FWD), who received a coupon will be entitled to a $500 price adjustment through participating British Columbia dealers. Price adjustment is applied after tax. Offer can be combined with all other Hyundai Canada retail offers. Offer expires March 31st, 2015. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. Offers available for a limited time, and are subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. ΔThe Hyundai Accent/Elantra received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among small/compact cars in the proprietary J.D. Power 2014 Initial Quality Study℠ (IQS). Study based on responses from 86,118 new-vehicle owners, measuring 239 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Propriety study results are based on experiences and perceptions of owners surveyed in February-May 2014. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. ▲Government 5-Star Safety Ratings are part of the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (www.SaferCar.gov). ‡†♦Ω*Offers available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. Visit www.hyundaicanada.com or see dealer for complete details. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.

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UNLOCK A DEAL

MOTOR TREND SUV OF THE YEAR 2015 £

Model shown: CR-V Touring RM4H9FKNX

2015 CR-V LX

LEASE FOR $70*

1.99% APR# $0 down‡

Weekly on a 60 month term with 260 payments.
MSRP $27,685** includes freight and PDI.

Standard features include:

- Earth Dreams™ technology powertrain
- Multi-angle rearview camera
- Heated front seats

2015 ODYSSEY LX

LEASE FOR $84* @ 1.99% APR# $0 down‡

Weekly on a 60 month term with 260 payments.
MSRP **$32,045**** includes freight and PDI. Model shown: RL5H2FE

Features available on select models include:

- HondaVAC™
- Lane Departure Warning and Forward Collision Warning
- Multi-angle rearview camera

2015 PILOT LX

LEASE FOR $107* @ 2.99% APR# $0 down‡

Weekly on a 60 month term with 260 payments.
MSRP **$37,095**** includes freight and PDI. Model shown: YF3H2FE

Features available on select models include:

- Power tailgate
- Multi-angle rearview camera
- Fuel efficient Variable Cylinder Management® engine

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*Limited time weekly lease offer and all other offers are from Honda Canada Finance Inc., on approved credit. #The weekly lease offer applies to a new 2015 CR-V LX 2WD model RM3H3FES/Odyssey LX model RL5H2FE/Pilot LX 2WD model YF3H2FE ("Specified Models") for a 60-month period, for a total of 260 payments of $69.89/$84.49/$107.42 leased at 1.99%/1.99%/2.99% APR based on applying $400.00/$0/$0 "lease dollars" (which are deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes). ‡In order to achieve $0 down payment, dealer will cover the cost of tire/battery tax, air conditioning tax (where applicable), environmental fees and levies on the 2015 CR-V LX 2WD, Odyssey LX and Pilot LX 2WD only on customer's behalf. Down payment of $0.00, first weekly payment and $0 security deposit due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $18,171.40/$21,967.40/$27,929.20. Taxes, license, insurance and registration are extra. 120,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. **MSRP is $27,685/$32,045/$37,095 including freight and PDI of $1,695 based on new 2015 Specified Models described above. License, insurance, registration and taxes are extra and may be required at the time of purchase. £For more information about the 2015 Motor Trend Sport/Utility of the Year® award, visit http://www.motortrend.com/oftheyear/suv/2015_honda_cr_v_is_the_motor_trend_suv_of_the_year */#/**Prices and/or payments shown do not include a PPSA lien registration fee of $30.31 and lien registering agent's fee of $5.25, which are both due at time of delivery and covered by the dealer on behalf of the customer on Specified Models only. Offers valid from March 3rd through 31st 2015 at participating Honda retailers. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer trade may be necessary on certain vehicles. Offers valid only for British Columbia residents at BC Honda Dealers locations. Offers subject to change or cancellation without notice. Terms and conditions apply. Visit www.bchonda.com or see your Honda retailer for full details.

Doing a double take

Exotic cars are sure to turn heads

The Lamborghini Huracan's top speed is more than 325 km/h (202 mph) and can accelerate from 0 to 100 km/h (62 mph) in 3.2 seconds. PHOTO COURTESY OF LAMBORGHINI

JIL MCINTOSH
For Metro

Get your selfie smile ready because there are going to be some cars at the Vancouver International Auto Show that you are just going to have to snap.

Alongside the more mainstream brands, you are also going to find models from such automakers as Aston Martin, Bentley, Ferrari, Lamborghini, Lotus, Maserati, and Rolls-Royce.

We all know them, even if we will never get behind the wheel of them. So what makes a "dream car" and why do they cost so much?

Performance is the key to much of their prestige and price. In a word, they are fast. Their engines contain pricey racing technologies, such as high-temperature coatings and special alloys. Their brakes may be made of carbon ceramic to stop better at high speeds, and their tires must be rated for ultra-high performance. And since extra weight slows you down, their bodies and chassis will be made of pricier featherweight materials such as carbon fibre.

Inside, they are all about luxury, offering such features as leather-wrapped dashes, deep-pile carpets, knurled aluminum dials, and headliners made of Alcantara, a man-made fabric that looks and feels like suede, but weighs only a fraction of the real thing.

The Ferrari 458 Spider. PHOTO COURTESY OF FERRARI

The Bentley Continental GT V8 S. CONTRIBUTED

There are no fast-moving assembly lines or banks of robots at their factories. Almost everything is done by hand, from assembling the engine to hand-stitching the seats.

And there's one more factor — exclusivity. While mainstream manufacturers want to sell as many cars as they can, the scarcity of these brands only adds to their appeal. Heads turn when you drive one, and that's just what these automakers want.

Buying a supercar isn't only about how fast you can go or how luxurious it is inside. When you walk through the crowd surrounding your car, and you are the one with its key in your pocket, it all comes together.

The Aston Martin Rapide S. PHOTO COURTESY OF ASTON MARTIN

The Aston Martin Rapide S. PHOTO COURTESY OF ASTON MARTIN

Best in class

Ford F-150 and Subaru Legacy named tops in Canada

JIL MCINTOSH
For Metro

The Subaru Legacy was crowned the 2015 Canadian car of the year by the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada. PHOTO COURTESY SUBARU

Earlier this year, two vehicles received top honours in the auto industry. The Subaru Legacy was named the 2015 Canadian car of the year, while the Ford F-150 is the 2015 Canadian utility vehicle (truck) of the year.

They were crowned by the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC), which hands out the annual awards after a week spent extensively testing each year's new or significantly-changed models. At the test site, more than 70 of Canada's top auto journalists tested 49 different models in 15 categories.

I was one of them, and I can tell you that it's both time-consuming and exhausting, but it's also the best way to see how they measure up. Even if many of us had already driven some of the contenders before, we still had to take them through their paces in tightly-controlled situations. Once a journalist starts evaluating a category, they must drive all vehicles in that category back-to-back, along the same route, and on the same day. In addition to public roads, cars are taken on a handling course, while pickup trucks and SUVs tackle an off-road course.

A winner is selected in each of the categories, which are differentiated by vehicle type and, in some cases, by price. For example, small cars are divided by those less than $21,000 and those more than $21,000.

To qualify for the top honours, a vehicle must win its category. The category winners are then shortlisted for car and utility vehicle of the year. This year, a tie in the balloting resulted in four car of the year finalists instead of the usual three: Hyundai Genesis; Mercedes-Benz C300 4Matic; Subaru Legacy; and Volkswagen Golf.

The Ford F-150 was chosen as the 2015 Canadian utility vehicle (truck) of the year by the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada. JIL MCINTOSH PHOTO

Three vied for utility vehicle honours: Ford F-150; Porsche Macan S; and Subaru Outback.

So how does a Subaru compete with a Mercedes-Benz, or a full-size pickup truck against a mid-size SUV? The answer is in the way vehicles are tested, which has everything to do with AJAC's focus on consumers.

Rather than a head-to-head race, TestFest collects data that reveal how well a vehicle does what it's supposed to do, and if it meets the needs and expectations of consumers in that segment. This involves rating each vehicle on such subjective things as handling, perceived value, ease of getting in and out, ride comfort, braking feel, and visibility. Those scores are added to objective numbers such as braking distance, fuel efficiency, and acceleration for a final figure.

AJAC also hands out a best new safety technology award, which went to AcuraWatch Drive Assist Features, and a best new innovation technology award, won by Ford for the F-150's all-aluminum body.

The most important thing for consumers isn't just the top awards, but in the comprehensive data generated for all of the entrants during TestFest, which is available for free at AJAC.ca.

Steam power. Designer ahead of his time

Canada has enjoyed a long history with the automobile, but the roots of our auto production go back a long way. A very long way, in fact, because Canada's first car is as old as our country.

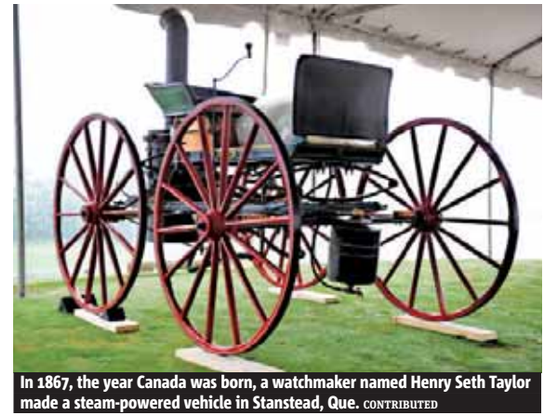
Karl Benz of Germany is generally credited with building the first gasoline-powered car in 1885. But in 1867, the year Canada was born, a watchmaker named Henry Seth Taylor made a steam-powered vehicle in Stanstead, Que.

Mounted on a carriage normally intended for a horse, the machine used coal fire to heat the water. The steam moved two brass cylinders that powered the wheels. By pulling a lever, the driver could make it go either forward or backward. Top speed was about 25 km/h.

It's believed Taylor got the idea by seeing an experimental steam buggy in Massachusetts, and he designed and built his car over two years. He planned to present it to the public at a local fair, but while the buggy made it to the grounds, it blew a steam hose and had to be pushed home. He came back to the fair the following year and his machine worked fine, but he couldn't convince anyone that it was a viable method of transportation.

He took it to other exhibitions, but received mostly the same response from the public. The carriage continued to work well, but one day Taylor drove it down a hill. It didn't have any brakes, and crashed. Defeated, he took the broken carriage home and put it in a barn.

Unbelievably, it stayed there — forgotten — for almost a century, until someone bought the barn and found it. In 1969, the buggy was restored, using the only known photograph of it. Today, it's on permanent display at the Canada Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa. JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO



In 1867, the year Canada was born, a watchmaker named Henry Seth Taylor made a steam-powered vehicle in Stanstead, Que. CONTRIBUTED

Meeting safety standards

JIL MCINTOSH
For Metro

All the new vehicles on display at the Vancouver International Auto Show have one thing in common — they all meet a long and sometimes complex list of standards set by Transport Canada.

These rules cover such things as safety, warning lights, and even what qualifies as a seat. But there are a few things that aren't on the list, which can be surprising.

A new vehicle must have a seatbelt for each seat, consisting of a hip belt and shoulder belt that can't be detached from each other, or from the mounting points. In a crash, the belt retractor has to immediately and securely lock to hold you in place. Wearing your seatbelt has been the law in B.C. since 1977. Ontario was the first to mandate seatbelt use, in 1976, while Yukon was the last to come on board in 1991.

All new passenger vehicles need to have anti-lock brakes, which prevent the wheels from locking up during emergency braking, and electronic stability control, which helps to prevent skidding.

But while all the new vehicles at the show are equipped with airbags, this one may surprise you — they don't need to be. Instead of mandating airbags, Canada sets a front occupant protection standard. Meet that with anything that works and you should be good to go. But since airbags conform to the standard, are mandated on vehicles in the U.S. and are designed into the car anyway, you will also find them in Canadian vehicles.

Transport Canada does have a final say, though. If a vehicle has airbags, it must also have standardized warning stickers on the sun visors. Don't ignore them. If you ride with your feet on the dash, you could be very seriously injured by the airbag if it deploys in a collision.

Your new vehicle will undoubtedly come with two exterior mirrors, but while the one on the driver's side is required by law, the one on the passenger side isn't.

The U.S. insists on a tire pressure monitoring system, which warns if any tire's pressure drops below a certain level. But Canada doesn't it. You may get one as standard or optional equipment here, depending on the model, but it's not required.

Your new vehicle will undoubtedly come with two exterior mirrors, but while the one on the driver's side is required by law, the one on the passenger side isn't. JIL MCINTOSH PHOTO

Instead of mandating airbags, Canada sets a front occupant protection standard for new vehicles. PHOTO COURTESY VOLVO

Your windshield wipers must be power-driven and have at least two speeds. JIL MCINTOSH PHOTO

Your new vehicle has to have a windshield defroster that clears a specified minimum area of the glass. JIL MCINTOSH PHOTO

On the other hand, daytime running lights must be on a vehicle here, but aren't compulsory in the U.S. They have to stay on whenever the engine is running, with a few possible exceptions, such as when the transmission is in neutral or park. They can only be white, yellow, or a shade in between, and they have to shut off whenever you turn on your headlights. Daytime running lights don't necessarily turn on your taillights, though, so you should always activate your headlights in fog, rain, or at dusk so other drivers can see you.

You have to have a windshield defroster that clears a specified minimum area of the glass, and your windshield wipers must be power-driven and have at least two speeds. Nothing on your steering wheel should be able to catch on your clothing or jewelry. The hood must have a secondary safety latch, the trunk needs a glow-in-the-dark release handle so anyone trapped inside can get out, and the vehicle has to have a 17-digit identification number stamped into it.

It's all part of what it takes to offer a car in Canada.

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Ends March 31

GET UP TO AN ADDITIONAL $2,500 OFF*

Ya!

Highline model shown

2015 Tiguan 2.0T Trendline

Monthly lease starting from the equivalent of

$89 bi-weekly for 48 months** **1.9%** APR

5-Star Safety Ratings† More Stars. Safer Cars.

Includes $2,500 discount* $4,174 down payment

GET A $1,000 DISCOUNT OR MORE ON ALL 2015 MODELS.*

Highline model shown

2015 Jetta 2.0L Trendline

Monthly lease starting from the equivalent of

$64 bi-weekly for 48 months** **1.9%** APR

$1,299 down payment

Includes $1,500 discount*

5-Star Safety Ratings† More Stars. Safer Cars.

2015 IIHS TOP SAFETY PICK ††

Highline model shown

2015 Passat 1.8T Trendline

Monthly lease starting from the equivalent of

$84 bi-weekly for 48 months** **1.9%** APR

$4,045 down payment

Includes $1,500 discount*

2015 IIHS TOP SAFETY PICK ††

Das Auto.

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*$2,500/$1,500/$1,500 discount on MSRP available on cash purchase, finance or lease of new and unregistered 2015 Tiguan 2.0T Trendline / Jetta 2.0L Trendline / Passat 1.8T Trendline models. Discount on MSRP available on cash purchase, finance or lease of new and unregistered 2015 models. Discount varies by model. Offer cannot be combined with any other offer not shown in this ad. ****Lease payments of $215/$150/$193 on the Tiguan/Jetta/Passat must be made on a monthly basis and cannot be made bi-weekly. Bi-weekly payment amounts shown include $2,500/$1,500/$1,500 discount.** Limited time lease offer available through Volkswagen Finance, on approved credit, based on a new and unregistered 2015 Tiguan 2.0T Trendline / Jetta 2.0L Trendline / Passat 1.8T Trendline base model with 6/5/5-speed manual transmission. $1,760/$1,605/$1,605 freight and PDI included in monthly payment. 48-month term at 1.9% APR. $4,174/$1,299/$4,045 down payment, $260/$200/$240 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation: $14,470/$8,475/$13,301. 64,000-kilometre allowance; charge of $0.15/km for excess kilometres. PPSA fee, license, insurance, registration, any dealer or other charges, options and applicable taxes are extra. †2015 Volkswagen Tiguan 2.0T 4MOTION® received a 5-star side-crash rating while the Jetta 4 DR FWD received a 5-star overall rating. Government star ratings are part of the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) New Car Assessment Program (safercar.gov). Crash performance was based on a U.S.-equipped vehicle. Some features on that model may be optional or not available in Canada. ††The 2015 Jetta/Passat was awarded a Top Safety Pick from the IIHS (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety). To qualify for a Top Safety Pick, a vehicle must earn good ratings in the moderate overlap front, side, roof strength and head restraint tests, as well as a good or acceptable rating in the small overlap front test. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Offers valid from March 21 to 31, 2015 at British Columbia dealers only and are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Models shown: 2015 Tiguan 2.0T Highline R-Line, $42,850 / 2015 Jetta 1.8T Highline, $27,385 / 2015 Passat 1.8T Highline, $32,690. Vehicles shown for illustration purposes only and may include optional equipment. Visit vw.ca or your Volkswagen dealer for details. "Volkswagen", the Volkswagen logo, "Das Auto & Design", "Tiguan", "Jetta" and "Passat" are registered trademarks of Volkswagen AG. © 2015 Volkswagen Canada.

Plugging into new technology

JIL MCINTOSH
For Metro

Rather than put gasoline in their vehicles, more than a few British Columbians plug theirs in. But now, there is another option — filling vehicles with hydrogen.

Hyundai recently announced that Jennifer Ma and Clayton Crawley of Surrey are the first Canadians to lease the all-new Hyundai Tucson Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV). This new zero-emission Tucson will initially be available only in the Vancouver area.

Several automakers are working with hydrogen, with a few ready to come to market. Honda previously leased its FCX Clarity to customers in California and will soon replace it with a next-generation FCEV model, while Toyota will introduce its new Mirai fuel cell vehicle in the U.S.

Fuel cell vehicles are actually electric cars that make their own power. Hydrogen can also be burned in an engine just like gasoline, a process that BMW used several years ago in its experimental Hydrogen 7 sedan, but it's far more efficient to use it as an electricity source.

The heart of an FCEV is the fuel cell stack, along with an electric motor, storage battery, and a tank that has to be refilled with hydrogen, just as a regular car needs to be filled with gas. Each fuel cell contains a thin membrane, which looks like a piece of cellophane, with a catalyst on either side. Hydrogen is pumped into one side and air on the other.

Through a chemical process with the catalyst, the hydrogen is broken down into negatively-charged electrons, and positively-charged hydrogen ions. The electrons are diverted to create electricity. The "leftover" hydrogen molecules then pass through the membrane. Once they reach the air that's pumped into that side, they combine with the oxygen in it to make water, which is a fuel cell vehicle's only tailpipe emission.

Clayton Crawley and Jennifer Ma of Surrey accept the keys to Canada's first Hyundai Tucson fuel cell vehicle from Don Romano, president and CEO of Hyundai Canada. Crawley and Ma are the first Canadians to lease the Hyundai Tucson Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle. PHOTO COURTESY HYUNDAI

Each fuel cell creates about one volt of electricity, so hundreds are stacked together in the unit known as the fuel cell stack.

Any electricity that isn't immediately required is stored in the battery. Electricity is also produced and stored from regenerative braking, which captures the kinetic energy otherwise lost when slowing down. The electric motor draws some of this stored power whenever it's needed for extra acceleration, just as a gasoline-hybrid does.

Unlike electric cars that can require hours to charge, filling a fuel cell vehicle doesn't take much longer than putting gas in a regular car, and the vehicle's range is roughly comparable to that of a gasoline model.

The biggest current challenge is infrastructure — hydrogen filling stations are still rare, with most of Canada's public outlets located in the Lower Mainland.

Hyundai says it plans to work with the Canadian federal government to get more stations up and running.

Know your octane ratings

When you pull up at the gas pump, you will notice numbers on each grade — 87, 89, 91, and at some stations, 93. These are the octane ratings, indicating regular, mid-grade, and premium fuel. It's important to know what you need to keep your car running properly and possibly save yourself some cash.

Your engine contains pistons that move in their cylinders to turn a crankshaft. The crankshaft's spinning motion eventually turns the wheels. The pistons are moved by the explosive force of gasoline vapour as it's injected in and then ignited by the spark plug.

All of this has to be perfectly timed or the engine won't run properly.

If you put regular octane fuel into an engine that needs premium, a sensor will instruct the computer to adjust the timing to stop engine knock. This will prevent any potential engine damage, but it will also make the car run poorly — and use more fuel — until the tank is refilled with premium.

This is why, if your car requires premium fuel, you aren't saving any money by putting in regular grade.

Conversely, if the car only needs 87 octane fuel, some drivers think they are "treating" it with an occasional tank of premium gas. It won't harm the engine, but it's a waste of money.

JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO

Tackling tough stuff

Truck manufacturers are bringing their best to the Vancouver International Auto Show

JIL MCINTOSH
For Metro

Canadians everywhere love pickup trucks. It's not just about how a truck looks or how many cupholders it has, but whether it can do a solid day's work and tackle the tough stuff.

All the truck and van manufacturers are bringing their best to the Vancouver International Auto Show.

Ford's big news is its all-new 2015 F-150, named the Canadian truck of the year last month by the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC). Thanks to an all-aluminum body and high-strength steel frame, Ford has lopped some 320 kilograms off the F-150's curb weight, which translates into higher towing and payload capacity. There's also an all-new 2.7-litre EcoBoost V6 engine alongside the existing V6 and V8 choices.

General Motors now offers two truck sizes. In addition to the full-size Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra, you can also opt for the mid-size Chevrolet Colorado and GMC Canyon, with their all-new engines, platforms and features. You will also get a look at the new GMC Sierra Carbon Edition, a unique appearance package that adds a black grille, carbon-fibre-look graphics, and wheel choices that include 20- and 22-inch rims.

Nissan presents its all-new 2016 Titan XD, which will hit dealerships later this year. It will be available with a gasoline V8 and its first-ever gas V6, but the one on display comes with an all-new Cummins V8 diesel. Generating 555 pound-feet of torque, it will take the Titan XD up to 12,000 pounds towing capacity and 2,000 pounds of payload. Nissan's intent is to give buyers the capability of a heavy-duty truck, but with pricing that's closer to light-duty.

Ram shows off its Rebel, a new off-road package based on the Ram 1500 that features an all-new blacked-out grille, twin-scoop aluminum hood, flat black trim, powder-coated black bumper, silver skid plate, and the RAM name stamped in huge letters across the tailgate. The theme continues inside, where the seat inserts match the tread pattern of the 33-inch Toyo tires. That grille and tailgate are also used on the new Ram Laramie Limited, which becomes the lineup's top luxury model.

Toyota has its full-size Tundra, and don't miss the luxurious 1794 Edition, named for the founding date of the San Antonio ranch that's the home of the Texas plant that builds the truck. You will also get your last official auto show look at the current mid-size Tacoma pickup. Later this year, Toyota plans to introduce an all-new version.

But not every job requires a truck bed, and manufacturers are introducing a wide variety of work vans, both large and small.

Mercedes-Benz's first "European-style" work van was the Sprinter, and for 2015, Mercedes-Benz offers a 4x4 version. It's surprisingly off-road capable and is meant for those whose job takes them into rough or muddy construction sites.

Alongside its smaller Transit Connect, Ford offers the Transit, recently named the winner of the full-size van division by the Canadian Truck King Challenge, and available with gasoline or diesel engines.

Nissan offers two versions of its work van — the full-size NV, and the smaller NV200, which, in its passenger version, is the official taxi of New York City. You will also find a version of it at Chevrolet, where it's called the City Express.

Ram has also added a downsized offering, and along with its full-size ProMaster, you can get the smaller ProMaster City. It's a version of the Fiat Doblo, with a Michigan-built, four-cylinder engine and nine-speed automatic transmission.

With such a wide variety of truck and van options available today, it's now even easier to find just the right vehicle for the job at hand.

Tough trucks

- Canadians bought 1.85 million vehicles in 2014, and, of those, more than 333,500 were pickup trucks. The top-selling vehicle in 2014 was the Ford F-150, which outsold the Honda Civic, the top-selling passenger car, by more than 60,000 units. The light truck segment, which also includes SUVs and minivans, accounts for more than 63 per cent of the Canadian new-vehicle market.

The Ford Raptor will be on display at the Vancouver International Auto Show, which runs Wednesday through to Sunday. PHOTO COURTESY FORD

Ram will show off its Rebel, a new off-road package based on the Ram 1500. JIL MCINTOSH PHOTO

The Ford Transit. JIL MCINTOSH PHOTO

The Chevrolet Silverado. JIL MCINTOSH PHOTO

The Nissan Frontier. PHOTO COURTESY NISSAN

Valuable tool for automakers

Concept vehicles

JIL MCINTOSH
For Metro

Although you can go out and buy almost all of the vehicles on display at the Vancouver International Auto Show, there are a few you will only ever be able to admire. These are the concept cars, such as the Cadillac Elmiraj and Infiniti Q80 Inspiration that will be on display at the show.

While they are popular attractions at car shows, concept cars are built for a purpose — to develop styling cues, test new materials and technologies, and try out cutting-edge ideas.

The car generally considered to be the first concept was the 1938 Buick Y-Job, designed by GM stylist Harley Earl. Its immediate usefulness to the company's design programs was curtailed due to the Second World War, and Earl ended up driving it as his personal car. But several of its styling cues and innovative technologies would later be used on production cars, including its covered headlamps, flush-mounted door handles, and electric window controls.

It wasn't long before other automakers took their stylized models straight off their sketchbooks and turned them into concept cars. As with the Y-Job, they were primarily about design, but would often incorporate radical new technologies, which allowed engineers to see how well they worked on an actual car.

GM's 1951 Le Sabre concept, for example, had a rain sensor that would automatically raise the convertible top if it detected moisture, while the 1956 Buick Centurion had a backup camera instead of a rear-view mirror, and the 1959 Cadillac Cyclone concept used radar to detect nearby objects. While it wasn't necessarily because of these specific cars, many modern vehicles offer rain-sensing wipers, backup cameras, and parking assist.

Some looked so far into the future that we are only now catching up to them. At the 1963 World's Fair, Ford introduced its six-wheeled Seattle-ite XXI concept. Not only did it have a computerized navigation system with weather updates, but it could be powered by fuel cells. It also had "variable-density" glass, an auto-darkening technology that you will now find in the sunroof glass of some current Mercedes-Benz models.

A large number of concepts were built in those early days and were used to draw curious visitors to the manufacturers' displays at auto shows, but each had a limited lifespan and couldn't be sold to the public when it outlived its usefulness. A few went to museums or stayed in the automaker's collection, while others were crushed or their parts used in other concepts. Perhaps the most famous "reuse" was the 1955 Lincoln Futura concept. It went to customizer George Barris, who modified it into the original Batmobile for the 1966 television show.

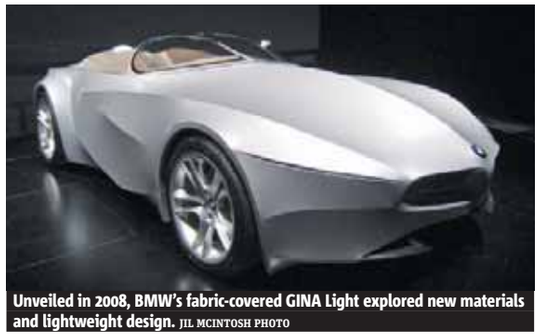
Almost all of the early concept cars were wild, out-there designs. Automakers still do that, but many of today's concepts are very close to the design of the production model. These can be used to fine-tune technologies and also let automakers gauge public reaction to new designs. Dodge discovered that when, in 1989, it unveiled a sinewy, V10-powered sports car concept called the Viper. It was never meant for production, but it drew so much attention that the company ended up building it for sale.

While some concepts can be driven, others built strictly for styling might not contain an engine, or even an interior. They may have components that could never be used on a real car, such as the fabric exterior that BMW put on its beautiful 2008 GINA Light concept. But trying unorthodox materials helps engineers determine how they can use them in future.

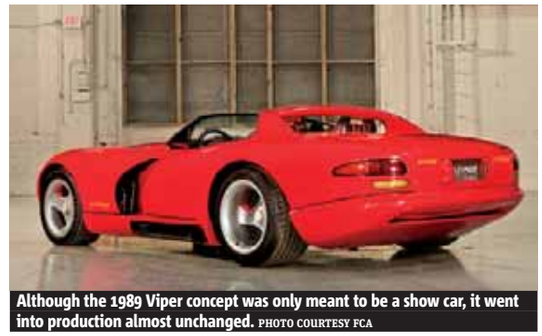
They might look like they are just out to grab your eye, but concepts are a valuable tool when automakers design the cars of tomorrow.

The 1938 Buick Y-Job is considered to be the first concept car. PHOTO COURTESY OF GENERAL MOTORS

The 1998 Chrysler Chronos concept was built on a Viper chassis. JIL MCINTOSH PHOTO



Unveiled in 2008, BMW's fabric-covered GINA Light explored new materials and lightweight design. JIL MCINTOSH PHOTO



Although the 1989 Viper concept was only meant to be a show car, it went into production almost unchanged. PHOTO COURTESY FCA

The Infiniti Q80 Inspiration uses a turbocharged engine that will appear in production cars. PHOTO COURTESY INFINITI

The Ford Hot Wheels Rip Rod, a full-size Hot Wheels, is not just a showpiece, but an actual off-road capable desert racer. FRED BOTTCHER PHOTO

Hot Wheels. Indulge your inner child

You will get a chance to indulge your passion for Hot Wheels at the Vancouver International Auto Show with the Ford Hot Wheels Rip Rod, a full-size Hot Wheels that's not just a showpiece, but an actual off-road-capable desert racer.

The Rip Rod uses a higher-performance version of the 1.0-litre engine that's available in the 2015 Ford Fiesta. Thanks to its turbocharging technology, this three-cylinder engine — which Ford says is small enough that it can fit in a suitcase — is capable of not just of powering the Fiesta, but turning the Rip Rod into a racing machine.

The Rip Rod was built by Mattel and the Los Angeles-based Bandito Brothers media company. It originally didn't run, and was displayed at the SEMA auto aftermarket show in Las Vegas last November on a trailer behind a Hot Wheels-themed Ford Transit Connect. Following the show, Ford Racing got its hands on the life-size model and added the muscle it needed to get moving.

The Rip Rod is just the latest in a long line of vehicles, large and small, that have worn the Hot Wheels name. The cars have been in toy boxes and on collectors' shelves since 1968. Prior to that, most toy cars didn't roll very well, and Mattel co-founder Elliot Handler noticed his grandchildren's frustration with them. He put together a team to create cars that would be fast and exciting.

The first Hot Wheels was a Chevrolet Camaro, followed by a Corvette that hit toy stores before the real car made it to the showroom. The first toy with an original design was the Twin Mill in 1969, which featured two massive engines popping out of its hood.

From that very first toy, Hot Wheels has now built more than four billion vehicles — more than Chrysler, Ford and General Motors combined.

JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO

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Lease APR	Lease Payment	Includes
2.9%[1]	$798[1]	$5,000
45 Months	$17,952[1] Down	in Delivery Credits[2]

** Fees and taxes extra.

THE 2015 SLK 250 ROADSTER.
TOTAL PRICE* STARTS AT: $55,360*

Lease APR	Lease Payment	Includes
2.9%[1]	$548[1]	$3,000
45 Months	$10,493[1] Down	in Delivery Credits[2]

PLUS RECEIVE 3 MONTHS PAYMENTS WAIVED[3]

** Fees and taxes extra.

THE 2015 SL 550 ROADSTER.
TOTAL PRICE* STARTS AT: $126,560*

Lease APR	Lease Payment	Includes
3.9%[1]	$998[1]	$20,000
36 Months	$18,203[1] Down	in Delivery Credits[2]

PLUS RECEIVE 3 MONTHS PAYMENTS WAIVED[3]

** Fees and taxes extra.

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© 2015 Mercedes-Benz Canada Inc. **Shown above is the 2015 C 63 AMG Coupe/2015 SLK 250 Roadster/2015 SL 550 Roadster. MSRP of $76,600/$52,200/$123,400.** *Total price of $79,760/$55,360/$126,560 includes freight/PDI of $2,395, dealer admin fee of $595, air-conditioning levy of $100, PPSA up to $45.48 and a $25.00 fee covering EHF tires, filters and batteries. **Vehicle options, fees and taxes extra. Vehicle license, insurance, and registration are extra. Lease offer only available through Mercedes-Benz Financial Services on approved credit for a limited time. [1]Lease example based on $798/$548/$998 (excluding taxes) per month for 45/45/36 months (STK#Z1526626/B1534428/B1537924), due on delivery includes down payment or equivalent trade of $17,952/$10,493/$18,203, plus first month lease payment, security deposit, and applicable fees and taxes. Lease APR of 2.9%/2.9%/3.9% applies. Total cost of borrowing is $5,780/$4,093/$9,606. Total obligation is $61,941/$40,426/$62,251. 12,000km/year allowance ($0.30/$0.40/$0.60 per km for excess kilometres applies). [2]Please note a $5,000/$3,000/$20,000 credit has been applied/included in the calculation of the monthly lease payment on the 2015 C 63 AMG Coupe/2015 SLK 250 Roadster/2015 SL 550 Roadster. It is a one-time credit for deals closed before March 31, 2015. See in-store for full details. [3]Three (3) months payment waivers are only valid on 2015 SLK-Class/SL-Class for deals closed before March 31, 2015. First, second, and third month payment waivers are capped at $850/$1,050 per month for lease. Only on approved credit through Mercedes-Benz Financial Services. Dealer may sell for less. Offers may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. See your authorized Mercedes-Benz Vancouver dealer for details or call the Mercedes-Benz Vancouver Customer Care at 1-855-588-4781. Offer ends March 31, 2015.

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SALE PRICE $27,998

S15562A

2013 INFINITI JX35

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SALE PRICE $41,888

BB3982

2014 RANGE ROVER SPORT V6 SE

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$705 BI-WEEKLY @ 96 MONTHS

SALE PRICE $98,998

BB3976A

2014 SUBARU BRZ SPORT-TECH

RWD with TORSEN limited slip differential, 20hp, 2L, 4cyl. boxer engine, rear spoiler, fog lights, bi-xenon HID headlights, 17" anthricite aluminum wheels, performance tuned suspension, push button start, navigation.

$180 BI-WEEKLY @ 96 MONTHS

SALE PRICE $27,198

S15422B

2013 HONDA FIT SPORT

FWD, 5-speed automatic transmission, Bluetooth HandsFreeLink, tilt and telescoping steering wheel, air conditioning, split folding rear seats, 117hp, front fog lights, rear window defroster and wiper, heated door mirrors, traction control, brake assist.

$135 BI-WEEKLY @ 84 MONTHS

SALE PRICE $18,999

S15363A

2013 TOYOTA MATRIX

Base package, hatchback , FWD, 1.8LL I-4 cyl. engine, steering wheel mounted audio and cruise controls, tilt and telescoping steering wheel, split folding rear seats, power and heated door mirrors, ABS brakes.

$128 BI-WEEKLY @ 84 MONTHS

SALE PRICE $17,999

BB3840

2013 BMW X6 XDRIVE35I

AWD, 3.0LL I-6 cyl. engine, cream leather interior, power moonroof, leather throughout, leather steering wheel, various storage throughout, DVD/AUX with 8" monitor for rear seats, rear climate control, Bluetooth.

$377 BI-WEEKLY @ 84 MONTHS

SALE PRICE $49,950

S15220A

2012 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT 2.0

TDI Trendline+, power adjustable rear view mirrors, power windows, heated and auto dimming rear view mirrors, Bluetooth compatible, dual zone climate control, A/C, halogen headlights, fog lights, FWD.

$188 BI-WEEKLY @ 72 MONTHS

SALE PRICE $22,999

S15439

2012 VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE

2.5L Comfortline, FWD, power locks, power windows, power adjustable rear view mirrors, rear bucket seats, large cargo area with tenneau cover included, two glove compartments, A/C, fuel economy monitor.

$135 BI-WEEKLY @ 72 MONTHS

SALE PRICE $16,999

S15415A

2013 HONDA CIVIC EX

Automatic transmission, black on black, 16" aluminum alloy rims, ABS brakes, fully loaded, power locks, power moonroof, leather steering wheel integrated with Bluetooth, stereo and cruise controls, heated seats.

$159 BI-WEEKLY @ 84 MONTHS

SALE PRICE $21,999

S15203A

2012 TOYOTA TACOMA V6

4x4, V6 engine, air conditioning, tilt and telescoping steering wheel, steering wheel mounted audio controls, wireless phone connectivity, rear step bumper, power steering, front wheel independent suspension, brake assist.

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Have a seat. What to look for

JIL MCINTOSH
For Metro

With so many vehicles under one roof, the Vancouver International Auto Show is a great place to start the shopping process when you are looking for a new vehicle.

While you can't test drive the vehicles on display, you can check many of the things that are important. Once you have done that, you will have a short list of vehicles you like and can arrange to take them on the road later at a dealer.

First, see how easy it is to get in and out. If you are going to be putting small children in the back seat, check to see if the doors open wide enough and that you can reach inside to do up the seatbelts. If you will have elderly passengers, think about how they will get in and out. On some vehicles, the rear seat is positioned farther back, which gives you more legroom, but can make it difficult for those with limited mobility to enter and exit the vehicle.

Check the controls. You should be able to easily reach everything, and they should be easy to use. See if the car comes with any must-have items on your list, such as heated seats, smartphone integration, or a navigation system.

Think about everything you take in your car. Is there a place to put your phone, or your bag or briefcase? Is there a plug to charge your mobile devices?

See if there is enough cargo space, and, if the rear seats fold, how easy they are to operate.

You can't test drive vehicles at the Vancouver International Auto Show, but you can check many of the things that are important. SHUTTERSTOCK

Regina Chan started AutoNerve as an online publication, but it has continued to grow and now includes print editions, as well. CONTRIBUTED

AutoNerve offers the pulse of the industry

When you are at the Vancouver Auto Show, be sure to stop by the AutoNerve booth. It's Canada's first and only Chinese-language automotive and lifestyle publication, founded and operated by Regina Chan.

One of the hardest working and most respected journalists in the industry, Chan started the magazine after writing for others.

"I loved to write short stories and I sent one to a local Chinese magazine in 1992," she said. "I got a phone call from the editorial department saying they liked the story and would I come work with them. I was in Grade 12. They offered me a part-time job, and that's how I started in the media business."

Another magazine noticed her work and hired her to translate automotive articles originally written by another journalist in English. But she felt she could do much more. As a woman writing in Chinese, she wanted to reach out to other women who were new to Canada and needed more information on buying and driving cars.

"In 2000, another media company invited me to join them to start a Chinese dot-com portal site, but 10 months later, the dot-coms crashed and I lost my job," Chan said. "I still wanted to be in the media, so I started AutoNerve."

Her publication was originally intended to be online only, and its website launched in 2002. It generated a lot of traffic, but when Chan approached local dealers to buy ads, they said they wanted a tangible publication. So she launched the first print edition in 2003.

"I did this all by myself," she said. "Editorial content is the most important thing in any publication, so I did local test drives, put together some extras, and got three advertisers that supported me in the first issue. So the rest is history. I hired a freelance designer, but I did the advertising sales, wrote the stories, and did the distribution. I even took the magazines to the dealers myself.

AutoNerve is available by subscription, at new car dealers, bookstores and newsstands in most Chinese malls, and at AutoNerve.com.

JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO

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SALE PRICE $19,995

AB10621
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Stow and go package It comes with convenience package, A/C, CD, AM/FM radio, automatic transmission, 7-seater, front and rear beverage holders, power group.
$42† WEEKLY @ 78 MONTHS
SALE PRICE $8,995

AB 10588
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2.5L, it comes with A/C, power group, keyless entry, CD player, AM/FM radio, split folding rear seats, tenneau cover included, power sunroof.
$58 WEEKLY @ 78 MONTHS
SALE PRICE $13,995

AB10479A
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Selectable all wheel drive, cloth seats, power windows, air conditioning, folding rear seats, alloy wheels, 3.7L engine, automatic transmission.
$49 WEEKLY @ 66 MONTHS
SALE PRICE $9,998

AB10638
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AB10655
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$95* WEEKLY @ 60 MONTHS
SALE PRICE $17,998

AB10639
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X4,automatic, A/C, side step, CD player, AUX, AM/FM radio, JVC audio system, cloth seats, front and rear beverage holders, manual adjustable driver seat, sunroof.
$97* WEEKLY @ 60 MONTHS
SALE PRICE $18,995

AB10624
2013 FIAT 500C LOUNGE
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$65 WEEKLY @ 84 MONTHS
SALE PRICE $16,995

AB10614
2014 DODGE CHARGER SXT
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AB10450
2012 SUZUKI KIZASHI
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S14211A
2012 NISSAN ALTIMA
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$86 WEEKLY @ 84 MONTHS
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S14500A
2006 HONDA ODYSSEY EX-L
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AB10609A
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Automatic, convenience package, climate control, power sunroof, alloy wheels, heated leather seats, keyless entry , traction control, CD, AM/FM radio.
$58 WEEKLY @ 84 MONTHS
SALE PRICE $14,995

S15370A
2006 NISSAN ARMADA SE
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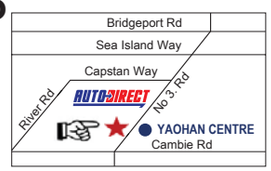

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‡Based on total Automobile Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC) Category wins (various) up to the 2014 model year. *To learn more about the Mazda Unlimited Warranty, go to mazdaunlimited.ca. ♦Signing Bonuses are available on retail cash purchase/finance/lease of select new, in-stock 2014/2015/2016 Mazda models from March 3 – 31, 2015. Bonus amounts vary by model. $500 Signing Bonus applies to all 2014 Mazda2, all 2014/2015 Mazda3, 2014/2015 Mazda5, and 2015/2016 Mazda6 models. $750 Signing Bonus applies to all 2015/2016 CX-5 models. Maximum $1,000 Signing Bonus only available on all 2015 CX-9 and 2014/2015 MX-5 models. Signing Bonus will be deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. See dealer for complete details. †0% APR purchase financing is available on all new 2015 Mazda vehicles. Other terms available and vary by model. Based on a representative agreement using offered pricing of $24,990 for the 2015 CX-5 GX (NVXK65AA00) with a financed amount of $25,000, the cost of borrowing for a 48-month term is $0, monthly payment is $521, total finance obligation is $25,000. **Lease offers available on approved credit for new 2015 Mazda3 GX (D4XK65AA00)/2015 Mazda6 GX (G4XL65AA00)/2015 CX-5 GX (NVXK65AA00) with a lease APR of 2.49%/1.99%/1.99% and bi-weekly payments of $89/$147/$134 for 60 months, the total lease obligation is $11,528/$19,046/$17,365 including down payment of $0. Lease offers include $500/$500/$750 Signing Bonuses. PPSA and first monthly payment due at lease inception. 20,000 km lease allowance per year, if exceeded, additional 8¢/km applies. 24,000 km leases available. Offered leasing available to retail customers only. Taxes extra. As shown, price for 2015 Mazda3 GT (D4TL65AA00)/2015 CX-5 GT (NXTL85AA00)/2015 Mazda6 GT (G4TL65AA00) is $27,790/$35,490/$34,090. All prices include freight & PDI of $1,695/$1,895 for Mazda3, Mazda6/CX-5. PPSA, licence, insurance, taxes, down payment and other dealer charges are extra and may be required at the time of purchase. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary on certain vehicles. Lease and Finance on approved credit for qualified customers only. Offers valid March 3 – 31, 2015, while supplies last. Prices and rates subject to change without notice. Visit mazda.ca or see your dealer for complete details.

Taking charge

The Prius Plug-In can run on pure electricity after it has been plugged in, and then will revert to hybrid operation. CONTRIBUTED

Vancouver International Auto Show putting focus on 'green' vehicles

JIL MCINTOSH
For Metro

Back in the automobile's early days, electric cars were popular. They didn't have much range, but they were easier to start than a gasoline car, which had to be cranked. But once Cadillac introduced a self-starting car in 1912, battery-powered cars quickly fell out of favour.

Now they are back, along with hybrids and other options, as many drivers strive to "go green." And since British Columbia is the "greenest" province in Canada, the Vancouver International Auto Show is putting the focus on these vehicles.

Show attendees can test-drive several alternative-power models at the Green Ride and Drive, presented by B.C. Hydro and Emotive, and powered by Sun Country Highway Ltd. The event runs each day of the show at the Jack Poole Plaza, from noon to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

The course lets drivers try electric and hybrid vehicles from BMW, Ford, Lexus, Mitsubishi, Nissan, Smart, and Toyota. It's free, but you need to sign up at the booth in the Vancouver Convention Centre West lobby.

Lexus offers several hybrid models, including the RX 450h. PHOTO COURTESY LEXUS

There are several reasons to consider a "green" vehicle, including using less gasoline, or none at all, and reducing or eliminating tailpipe emissions. But they can be pricier than conventional models, and it's important to know exactly how they work so you can make the best choice.

A battery-powered car runs solely on electricity after it has been plugged into a wall to charge. It will keep you posted on how much power you have left, but once the battery is depleted, your drive is over until the car is recharged.

Range-extended cars are also electric and plug into a wall, but they additionally contain a small gasoline engine that automatically starts up once the battery gets too low. The engine doesn't power the wheels, but acts as a generator to make more electricity.

Fuel cell vehicles are also powered by electricity, but they make their own from an on-board hydrogen supply that has to be refilled similar to the way a gasoline car is refuelled. The fuel cell uses a chemical process to generate electricity from hydrogen, sending water out its tailpipe as its only emission.

Hybrid vehicles use a combination of a gasoline engine and electric motor with a storage battery. Depending on driving conditions, the vehicle runs on gas, electricity, or a combination of the two, automatically selecting the best function. The battery is recharged by the gas engine and by regenerative braking, which captures kinetic energy when decelerating.

BMW's i3 is electric but can be optioned with a range extender engine. JILL MCINTOSH PHOTO

The Smart ForTwo Electric Drive runs only on electricity. PHOTO COURTESY SMART

The showstopper of the Vancouver International Auto Show may be the Porsche 918 Spyder, valued at $1.3 million and on display for the first time in British Columbia. GETTY IMAGES PHOTO

Fascinating displays will shine spotlight on variety

JIL MCINTOSH
For Metro

The Vancouver International Auto Show will feature cars and trucks of all kinds, both old and new. CONTRIBUTED

While the Vancouver International Auto Show is primarily about new vehicles, you will also find fascinating displays with cars and trucks of all kinds, both new and old.

Be sure to comb your hair and smile because you will want to take plenty of pictures with the exotic and supercars on display. These will include fast, stylish, and luxurious models from such manufacturers as Alfa Romeo, Rolls-Royce, Lamborghini, Ferrari, Tesla, Bentley, Maserati, Lotus, and McLaren.

But perhaps the showstopper of the event is a Porsche 918 Spyder, valued at $1.3 million and on display for the first time in British Columbia.

For those who like their cars a little older, there is Hagerty Classic Alley, presented by the Vancouver chapter of the Vintage Car Club of Canada. In honour of the show's 95th anniversary, the display will include a 1920 Ford Model T "pie wagon," a light-duty delivery truck that would have been right at home on the show floor as a brand new vehicle all those years ago.

Classic Corvettes will also be on display as Dueck Auto Group presents 62 years of Corvette history. Originally built as a low-production sports car, with a body formed in fibreglass rather than steel to keep the cost down, the Corvette evolved into an iconic model that showcased many new and emerging technologies along the way.

This year's show will feature the debut of a fantastically detailed 1963 Lincoln convertible built by 360 Fabrication in Abbotsford. Along with a 1,250-horsepower Ford Super Cobra Jet engine and unique NASCAR-style rear end, the Lincoln features a hand-stitched Italian leather interior, a $100,000 stereo system, and more than 1,000 unique custom touches. It's all part of a custom build that's estimated at $1 million.

And that's not the show's only fabulous custom. As if driving a Nissan GT-R isn't enough — there's a reason why fans have dubbed this muscular sports model Godzilla — you will have a chance to see one made even better with a kit by Japanese tuner Liberty Walk. Owned by Dr. J.J. Dubec, a native of Vancouver, this special GT-R is one of only two in the world. Check out its matte grey 3M vinyl wrap and graphics, its custom one-off wheels, Brembo brakes, and a stereo featuring four amps. You have seen this car on social media, and now you can see it in the flesh.

Cars are part of a lifestyle, so don't miss Car Culture, an all-new exhibit this year. The display features accessorized vehicles in lifestyle settings, including Subaru in the City and Country setting, Jaguar in City Luxury, Range Rover in Sea to Sky, and a Nissan Leaf on Electric Avenue.

But you still aren't done: Be sure to have a look at the Bigfoot monster truck, exclusively using electric power for its car-crushing ability; the Hollywood North display with the Scooby-Doo Mystery Machine and the Gray Sisters' Taxi from Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters; and the Hot Wheels Rip Rod, a full-size driveable version of the popular childhood toy.

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SF15189	2015	Hyundai	Santa Fe 2.4 Premium AWD	Gray	$33,119	$31,235	New
SF15088	2015	Hyundai	Santa Fe 2.0T Limited	White	$41,969	$37,037	Demo
SO15030	2015	Hyundai	Sonata Hybrid Ltd Tech	Gray	$36,522	$31,524	Demo
SO15050	2015	Hyundai	Sonata 2.0T Ultimate	Silver	$36,822	$32,100	Demo
HY10941	2015	Hyundai	Genesis 3.8 Luxury	Black	$40,995	$38,888	Certified Pre-owned
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HY10937	2015	Hyundai	Sonata GL	Silver	$23,995	$20,888	Certified Pre-owned
HY10940	2015	Hyundai	Sonata GL	Blue	$23,995	$20,888	Certified Pre-owned
HY10934	2014	Hyundai	Elantra GL Sedan	White	$17,995	$16,888	Certified Pre-owned
HY10935	2014	Hyundai	Elantra GL Sedan	Gray	$17,995	$16,888	Certified Pre-owned
HY10921	2014	Hyundai	Santa Fe 2.4 Premium AWD	Silver	$27,995	$25,798	Certified Pre-owned

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Going into overdrive

The Vancouver International Auto Show, which runs Wednesday through to Sunday at the Vancouver Convention Centre West, will feature such vehicles as the Nissan BladeGlider, right. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

95th Vancouver International Auto Show promises to be bigger and better than previous versions

If bigger is better, then this year's Vancouver International Auto Show should be the best one yet.

The show celebrates its 95th anniversary and has grown by 25 per cent, with even more features and interactive displays.

In addition to all the cars, trucks and SUVs available at dealerships, the show includes the B.C. debut of more than 30 new models, plus exotic sports cars, and classics from days gone by. You can also see some of the hottest concept cars, including the Cadillac Elmiraj, Infiniti Q80 Inspiration, Subaru VIZIV 2, and Nissan BladeGlider.

Because the environment is so important to British Columbians, the show has a special emphasis on "green vehicles." You will be able to test-drive electric and hybrid vehicles at the third annual Green Ride and Drive, see an electric monster truck, and find out which model won the inaugural Automotive Journalists of Canada (AJAC) green car of the year award, which will be presented at the show.

More than 30 manufacturers and brands will have booths at the show, making this the ideal destination if you are in the market for a new vehicle.

This is your opportunity to get inside them, see their features, and check out all the things that are important when selecting your next ride — how easy it is to get in and out, the seating position, cargo space, and what options are available. By doing your homework at the show, you can come up with a short list of vehicles that you can later test-drive at a dealer.

All of that takes time, so if you have brought little ones with short attention spans, you can park them at the free Volkswagen Children's Playcare Centre, where they will be entertained by professional daycare providers.

The show also includes auto accessories vendors, a display of classic Corvettes, a full-size Hot Wheels and the Scooby-Doo Mystery Machine, and contests where you could win a Canucks-themed Camaro, a Nissan Leaf, a car decal kit, or a chance to drive a Ferrari or Lamborghini on the Sea to Sky Highway.

Presented by the New Car Dealers Association of B.C., the Vancouver International Auto Show is the largest consumer show in Western Canada.

Check out the Subaru VIZIV 2 Concept car at the Vancouver International Auto Show at the Vancouver Convention Centre West. PHOTO COURTESY SUBARU

Show information

- The show runs Wednesday through to Sunday at the Vancouver Convention Centre West. Hours are: Wednesday and Thursday, noon to 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m; and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Adult admission is $15 on weekdays and $17 on weekends, with discounts for seniors, students, and children. Family passes, multi-day tickets and group discounts are also available.
- Avoid lineups by buying your tickets in advance at vancouverinternationalautoshow.com. Online tickets can be downloaded to your smartphone with no need to print them.

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